

Iraq sends message to Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — The first high-ranking Iraqi envoy to visit a NATO nation since last Thursday's take-over of Kuwait went to Turkey Sunday to deliver a message from President Saddam Hussein for Turkish President Turgut Ozal. Officials said the contents of the message relayed by Taha Yassia Ramadan, Iraq's first deputy prime minister, would be announced later. But one senior official said he thought it included a request to Ankara to ensure the uninterrupted flow of more than half of Iraq's total oil exports through a 1,300-kilometre twin pipeline across Turkey to the Mediterranean. Ramadan told a news conference before he left Ankara that a decision to close the pipeline would "create an atmosphere of distrust between the two countries." The semi-official Anatolian news agency reported. Gulf diplomats said Ozal had been approached by Washington to consider closing the pipeline.

Jordan Times

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King contacts Syrian, Qatari leaders

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Sunday exchanged views over the situation in the Gulf region and both leaders emphasised the need to resolve Arab disputes within an Arab framework, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said, reporting a telephone conversation between the two leaders. King Hussein also contacted Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, the emir of Qatar, and discussed with him the present developments in the area and the latest developments and the situation in the Gulf area and the efforts to contain the crisis within an Arab framework, Petra said. The contacts with the Syrian and Qatari leaders were the latest in efforts launched by the King to contain the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. The King had been in constant touch with other Arab leaders on the issue.

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No confirmation of Iraq detentions

AMMAN (J.T.) — There was no confirmation Sunday of reports from the Gulf Saturday that at least 300 members of all foreign ships docked at Kuwait port were detained by Iraqi forces. International news agencies reported from the Gulf, Washington and London that it could not be established that Iraqi troops, who stormed Kuwait Thursday, had rounded up foreign sailors in Kuwait and took them to an unknown destination.

Kuwaiti 'exiles' arrive in London

LONDON (AP) — A group of senior Kuwaiti officials, believed to be members of the ousted ruling family, arrived late Sunday at Heathrow airport on a special Kuwait Airways flight. The party, which included four young women, was met by Kuwaiti Ambassador Ghazi Al Rayes, who said the names of those arriving would be provided later by the embassy. Security at the airport was tight and armed police patrolled the arrival terminal. Reporters were not allowed near the gate. The group of about a dozen Kuwaitis, wearing dark glasses or shielding their faces, were driven from the terminal in a convoy of Mercedes limousines to an unknown destination under police escort. The ambassador declined to say how the Kuwaitis had escaped, except to say they had departed from a neighbouring country. "They have come here from Kuwait. We have our way of getting them out of the country. They were on the border of Kuwait and another country," he said.

'Kuwaiti' warplanes in Bahrain, S. Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — Several Kuwaiti jet fighters, flown out of the country after Iraq's take-over Thursday, are now in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, oil industry sources in the Gulf said Sunday. They said some planes were at an air force base in Bahrain. It was not known how many had escaped Kuwait. Before the invasion, Kuwait had 36 combat aircraft, 24 French Mirage F-1 and 12 British Lightning. A senior Bahrain army officer had no comment on the report.

Bahraini emir gets Iraqi message

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday, the Gulf News Agency reported. It gave no details of the message delivered by Iraq's Local Government Minister Ali Hassan Al Majeed. Sheikh Isa also received a written message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal on "regional developments," the agency said.

Bashir avoids condemnation of Iraq

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudanese strongman Omar Hassan Al Bashir Sunday broke his country's silence over Iraq's take-over of Kuwait and said a condemnation of the act would allow "imperialist and Zionist powers to strike at the Arab Nation. Sudan, along with five other Arab members of the Arab League, refused Friday to endorse a league council resolution condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait a day earlier. In comments carried by the state-owned Sudan News Agency, Bashir said: "The condemnation style will not serve the question. It will only give a chance to the enemies of the Arabs to strike at the Arab Nation." Bashir spoke soon after receiving a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, relayed by Samir Abdul Wahab, a personal envoy. Iraq Sunday also sent an envoy to Libya, another country that did not support the league condemnation of Iraq. Sudan seeks to "end the crisis through inter-Arab consultations and with the concerned sides... to guarantee the interests of both the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people," Bashir said. He said Sudan wants to "remedy the issue within the Arab circle so that imperialist and Zionist powers would be deprived of a chance to strike at the Arab Nation."

Iraq begins pullout from Kuwait City; more planned today

Americans say Iraqis going south

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The radio of the Iraq-backed government of Kuwait said Iraqi troops began withdrawing Sunday, three days after taking over the country. The radio, monitored in Bahrain, quoted its "military correspondent" as saying the pullout began at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT). The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the U.N. Security Council had been notified of the pullout's start. Gulf-based diplomats, meanwhile, said up to 80,000 soldiers of the largely Iraqi-staffed "Popular Army" fanned out through the country. The Kuwait embassy in Amman, claimed that a Kuwaiti Mirage F-1 of the deposed emir's air force bombed the headquarters of the Iraqi military in Jahra near Kuwait City. It was not clear where the

warplane could have flown from. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Iraq declared earlier that the nine-member provisional government installed by Baghdad is capable of ensuring security in the country.

The television of the new government in Kuwait, monitored in Bahrain, showed footage of tanks being loaded onto flatbed trucks and a long convoy of armoured personnel carriers, gasoline tankers and jeeps it said were headed back to Iraq.

The words flashing across the screen said "Heroic Iraqi forces pursued their withdrawal in light of a defined timetable set in coordination with the provisional government of free Kuwait. The Kuwaiti-Iraqi unified family have one destiny."

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said local field commanders

would organise further withdrawals Monday.

However, U.S. intelligence reports do not show evidence of an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait, Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman David Boren said Sunday.

"Intelligence reports this morning do not indicate that the Iraqis are really moving out, especially along the southern border (with Saudi Arabia) where they are pretty well dug in," the Oklahoma senator said in an ABC television interview.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in an early morning news conference Sunday that the United States had no independent confirmation of the Iraqi report.

Boren said in the television interview that Iraqi troops were "right on

New Kuwait regime warns against sanctions

NICOSIA (R) — The new Iraqi-backed government in Kuwait warned countries with nationals in Kuwait Sunday not to take sanctions against it or Iraq, but said Kuwaitis and foreigners were free to leave for Iraq at any time. "These countries should also not expect us to act honourably at a time when they are conspiring against us and other brothers in Iraq in an aggressive way," Walid Saud Mohammed Abdullah said on the Iraqi "Voice of the Masses" radio. He said: "Countries that resort to punitive measures against the provisional free Kuwait government and fraternal Iraq... should remember that they have interests and nationals in Kuwait." Abdullah added: "If these countries insist on aggression against Kuwait and Iraq... the Kuwaiti government will then reconsider the method of dealing with these countries." Well over one million foreigners were working in Kuwait when Iraqi troops invaded last Thursday, occupied the country and later announced a nine-man military government. Among the foreigners are

thousands of westerners and Japanese in senior positions in banks and the oil industry, and a substantial group of western military advisers.

An "Interior ministry" statement broadcast later Sunday by the radio, which was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Kuwaiti citizens and foreigners would be allowed to leave for Iraq by land for any reason.

"Following agreement with the authorities in fraternal Iraq, it has been decided to allow Kuwaiti citizens and Arab and foreign citizens to leave for Iraq for any reason whatsoever through the land route," the statement said.

The United States, European nations and Japan have all announced sanctions against Iraq and Kuwait.

Thousands of other workers come from Sri Lanka, Egypt, Jordan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Thailand and South Korea.

An estimated 10,000 Chinese also work in Kuwait. China has joined most Western countries and the Soviet Union in banning arms sales to Iraq (see page 2).

OIC hits Israel, U.S.

CAIRO (AP) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers meeting Sunday issued its final communique with resolutions sharply critical of Israel and the United States because of its support of the Jewish state. The conference had been scheduled to end Saturday. But its 45 members spent two hours debating and passing a resolution condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The OIC then postponed discussing the rest of the draft resolutions to Sunday. Conference sources said the final communique had been agreed upon after several hours of deliberations Sunday and would be publicly announced in an open session later in the day. A copy of the final communique obtained by the AP warned of the "serious danger" of the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories and strongly condemned it. "The immigration of Soviet Jews and their settling in the occupied territories is a blatant violation of human rights and we strongly condemn it," one resolution said. It strongly condemned the U.S. Congress for recognising Jerusalem as the "capital of Israel" and said the decision must be rescinded.

Professional associations voice support for Iraq

By Sami Adhieh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Council of Professional Associations Presidents released a statement Sunday calling on all Arab leaders and people to immediately support Iraq in its moves to "liberate" Kuwait "and therefore the rest of the Arab World, from American and Western hegemony and monopoly on Arab oil wealth."

"They said, however, that there should be respect to the will and choice of the Kuwaiti people, and there should be support for their independent decisions and their national security."

"American aggression and Western colonialist and Zionist threats against Iraq is aggression against the entire Arab World and its security. In order to confront this continuous aggression, it is a national duty on all Arabs — leaders and people — to immediately support Iraq, in practice, and to abort this aggression," a statement issued by the council said.

from the American hegemony and monopoly on the oil wealth."

"Iraq immediately responded to the will of the Kuwaiti people in their call for their nationalist liberation. So the Iraqi forces entered Kuwait to protect Kuwaiti security and Arab security as a whole," the statement said.

Aug. 2, the day Iraq entered Kuwait, has been considered by the council "historic day" and a basic turning point for the Arab Nation, the statement added. It said that the Iraqi move was important in that it aims at political and economic liberation from American and Western hegemony.

The council praised the Arab countries that did not participate in the Arab League resolution Friday condemning Iraq's entry into Kuwait: Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Sudan, Mauritania.

"What is happening in Kuwait is an internal matter and no one should interfere. The Iraqi entry into Kuwait was based on nationalist reasons and in response to the demands of the Kuwaiti people," the statement said.

The council asserted that any solution of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict must remain within the national Arab

framework. The statement said that the solution must lie in the best interests of Kuwait, Iraq and the Arab World as a whole, and ensure Arab national security for the entire region.

The statement added that now was the time to "Arabise" the oil wealth to benefit the Arab people in the oil-producing countries and all other Arabs. The council called on implementing the slogan: "Arab oil is for Arabs."

"This resource must be employed to support the Palestinian intifada, as well as the people of the frontline countries (with Israel); Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon," the statement read. It added that the oil riches should also be utilised to develop poor countries such as Sudan and Egypt.

The council also called on all Arabs to exercise the highest level of awareness and caution and remain responsibly prepared "during this historic time of Arab awakening."

"We have no stand together in one line against the imperialist American-Zionist scheme, and achieve victory in fulfilling our people's aspiration. This way, our nation would revive its historical dignity and achieve comprehensive Arab unity and solidarity," the statement concluded.

Iraq will not invade Saudi Arabia — King

U.S. should adopt an attitude with a calming effect

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told him Iraq would not invade Saudi Arabia and warned that intimidation of Baghdad could deepen the Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's take-over of Kuwait.

The King, in two separate interviews with American television networks, also said that any foreign intervention in the Middle East could trigger a violent response and that the Iraq-Kuwait crisis should be resolved within an Arab framework.

In an interview from Amman with CBS Television's Evening News newscaster Dan Rather, King Hussein said: "I do not believe (President Hussein) intends to go into Saudi Arabia. He has told me that." King Hussein said he saw the Iraqi leader Friday.

In an appeal to the West not to intervene in the Gulf crisis, King Hussein said:

"During the last few days there were pressures applied to bring not only the majority of the world in line but to also influence Arab logic and influence making to go along to justify the possibility (of) some military or other actions."

"Please believe me all... that intimidation does not work, that it could be counter-productive and that we could be in a far worse situation than we are facing at the moment."

In an interview given Saturday to NBC television, King Hussein warned foreign nations against intervening in the Middle East, suggesting it could trigger a violent response and that the Iraq-Kuwait crisis was a matter for

Arabs to resolve. "Any foreign intervention, be it Israeli or otherwise, in the Arab World will have a very, very bad reaction and could set the whole area ablaze," King Hussein said.

"There is no need for that, and at the same time there is no threat to Saudi Arabia or any other state," the King said.

Reports that Iraqi troops were massing on the Saudi border have raised concerns in the U.S. that President Hussein next will invade Saudi Arabia. King Hussein disputed the Saudis are at risk.

"They have a very long border that is a defined border with Iraq. They have always had the very best relations, particularly over the last few years. I don't see what all these ideas of a threat really amount to," he told NBC.

King Hussein told CBS that to the best of his knowledge, Iraq had started withdrawing troops from Kuwait as promised.

"I really don't know what the plan is and I don't know exactly what the timing is," said the King. "However, if there is a threat of external intervention in the military sense, I believe that all this could go out of control."

King Hussein urged the international community to allow the Arab World to resolve the problem on its own.

"Now what we need to do is be very calm about it and to... realise that intimidation won't work and point of fact might be counter-productive and

(Continued on page 5)

Iraqi pullout major achievement in Jordan's efforts — Badran

● No recognition of new Kuwaiti government

● Jordan will not be an 'easy passage' for Israel

By Laimis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Pledging that Jordan will not tolerate foreign intervention in the region Prime Minister Mudar Badran declared Sunday that Jordan was not recognising the newly-installed "provisional government" in Kuwait to maintain its credibility as a mediator in the dispute.

Jordan was alert to possible Israeli attempts to strike against Jordan or to pass through Jordan to invade Iraq, the prime minister said. He vowed that Jordan would defend itself and "will not be an easy passage for anyone," he pledged.

Addressing a press conference, Badran said that "a Jordanian recognition of the

provisional government will obstruct mediation efforts. Therefore, and within the context of these efforts we shall not recognise the provisional government in Kuwait."

Badran also pledged that Jordan would continue its mediation efforts to contain the crisis, and to preempt foreign intervention. He expressed optimism that the crisis could be solved within an Arab context.

At the beginning of the press conference, which was held at the Prime Ministry, Badran read a written statement (see full text on page 5) explaining Jordan's position and the developments preceding the final eruption of the crisis which culminated by Iraq's military take-over of Kuwait last week.

He disclosed that both Saudi King Fahd and U.S. President George Bush, had asked His Majesty King Hussein to mediate an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Badran implied that Friday's Arab League censure of Iraq, despite a prior agreement with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to postpone the decision, undermined King Hussein's mediation efforts.

"While His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to contain the crisis were beginning to bear fruit, we were surprised by the insistence that the Arab League Council issue a resolution condemning the entry of Iraqi troops into Kuwait contrary to the agreement reached with President Mubarak," Badran read from the statement.

The prime minister's statement and press conference provided the first detailed outline of the Jordanian position on the current explosive situation in the Gulf.

Judging by Badran's statements, the Jordanian stand is based on the following principles:

— Jordan is against any Arab intervention in the affairs of any other Arab country and abides by the Arab League Charter.

— Jordan is against Western or Israeli intervention in the conflict and insists on a solution within the Arab context.

— Jordan's steps would reflect its role as a mediator in the conflict.

(Continued on page 5)

'Jordanian homes open for Kuwaitis'

By Sahar Qar'een
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday announced that the government had adopted measures to help Kuwaiti nationals stranded in Jordan in the wake of the Israeli take-over of their country, and said that he himself and all Jordanians welcome them to their homes.

The prime minister told a press conference Sunday that he had asked the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to help resolve the problem posed by the suspension by commercial banks of all dealings in Kuwaiti dinars. Kuwait embassy officials said many Kuwaiti nationals who were vacationing here at the time of the Iraqi take-over faced problems in changing their money in Kuwaiti dinars to pay for their continued stay in the country until Kuwait airport is reopened.

"I declare that my home is open for Kuwaitis," Badran told the press conference. "You are welcome to my home as well as the homes of all Jordanians," he said.

At least two Jordanian commercial banks, the Jordan Kuwait Bank and the Housing Bank, are now accepting Kuwaiti dinars under a special arrangement which involves depositing Kuwaiti dinars at the banks and receiving one Jordanian dinar in exchange for every Kuwaiti dinar. The actual exchange rate will be applied as and when the situation of the Kuwaiti currency is cleared.

Expression of thanks

Later Sunday, a group of about 150 Kuwaitis staged a demonstration in front of the Kuwaiti embassy in Jabal Amman. Part of the demonstration was devoted to expressing thanks for the Jordanian moves to help them while the other part was aimed at denouncing Iraq and the newly formed provisional government of Kuwait.

The demonstrators expressed support for and vowed to stand by the deposed Kuwaiti emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and cabinet members.

The demonstrators held banners aloft expressing support of the Kuwaiti ruling family and His Majesty King Hussein for withholding recognition of the new government of Kuwait.

They called on all Arabs to side by Kuwait in confronting what they described as "an imperialist and Zionist" government created by Iraq.

Some of the banners said: "No for anyone except for Al Sabah: We will sacrifice our lives to save the life of Sheikh Jaber of Kuwait."

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli MKs enter talks with Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

Sixteen members of the Israeli parliament agreed Sunday to work for peace with Palestine territories who support the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

It was the furthest any high-ranking group of Israeli elected officials had gone towards recognising the PLO as the legitimate representative of Palestinians.

The Israeli members of Knesset (MKs) and a nearly equal number of Palestinians issued a declaration saying:

"Every settlement... should be negotiated between the government of Israel and the internationally recognised legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The 16 Israelis were from four left-to-centre opposition parties in the 120-seat parliament including the mainstream Labour Party.

Labour Parliamentarian Yossi Beilin told a news conference: "There are many differences in views but what interests us is the security of Israel and the ability to live in peace with our neighbours... so we prepared an important common denominator."

Dedi Zucker, of the leftist Citizens Rights Movement, told Reuters: "We want to prove that Palestinians and Israeli officials can meet and discuss regularly."

The group supported holding an international conference to solve the conflict although the government rejects such a parity in favour of elections for the 1.75 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"This meeting is an achievement for the cause of peace and for all those concerned and interested in peace in the region," Palestinian nationalist Ziad Abu Zayyad told reporters.

Other Palestinians taking part were Faisal Hussein, Ghassan Khatib, Hanan Ashrawi and Radwan Abu Ayyash. Among the Israelis were Lova Eliav and Abraham Burg of Labour, Yair Tsaban of the Mapam Party and Amnon Rubinstein of the Shinui party.

Abu Ziad, who spoke at the end of the closed-doors meeting held at the Notre Dame hotel in the Arab Jerusalem, stressed that the Palestinians did not view it as an alternative venue for talks.

"This meeting is not an alternative to the negotiations which should take place between the government of Israel and the PLO," he said.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) announces the postponement of a ceremony for laying the foundation stone of the Al Amal Cancer Treatment Centre which is due to take place Monday at 12:00 noon under the Royal patronage.

Japan announces Iraq sanctions

TOKYO (AP) — After several days of debate, the Japanese government announced sanctions against Iraq Sunday for its takeover of Kuwait, including a ban on purchases of oil from Iraq and Kuwait and on all Japanese exports to both countries.

Japan also will suspend loans and ban Japanese investment in both countries and freeze Iraqi assets in Japan, chief government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said. Iraq became eligible in February for 400 billion yen (\$2.67 billion) in Japanese government credits which it has not yet received.

The decision to impose sanctions was made in meetings Sunday attended by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Trade and Industry Minister Kahun Muto and Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, news reports said.

The Foreign Ministry reportedly had urged the government to impose sanctions, while the trade ministry had warned of resulting damage to Japan's economy.

Japanese newspapers said some trade ministry officials had expressed concern that sanctions against Iraq would push up oil prices in Japan and worsen chances for Baghdad's repayment of 700 billion yen (\$4.6 billion) in outstanding debts with Japan.

On Friday, the Japanese Government instructed banks and other financial institutions to block Iraqi access to the estimated \$20 billion in Kuwaiti assets held in Japan.

Spain hockades Kuwait assets

The Spanish government has

clamped controls on Kuwaiti assets, the biggest foreign investment in Spain.

The Madrid government ordered that any transfer abroad of Kuwaiti interests must be authorized by the Finance Ministry.

A Foreign Ministry statement Saturday night said the measures were aimed at "protecting the interests of the legitimate owners of Kuwaiti investments in Spain and of Spanish shareholders with interests in companies controlled by such groups."

The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) is the largest single foreign investor in Spain and has played a major role in the country's economic boom. Its investments in Spain account for about one per cent of its worldwide portfolio.

The European Community, of which Spain is a member, has announced a freeze on all Iraqi assets in the 12-nation bloc and Britain has also decided to put Kuwaiti holdings on ice.

Italy freezes Iraqi assets

The Italian government, in line with the EC sanctions, agreed Sunday to freeze Iraqi assets in Italy, a cabinet minister said.

Briefing reporters following an urgent cabinet meeting, Justice Minister Giuliano Vassalli said the decision was necessary to conform with the measures imposed Saturday by EC officials who met in Rome in reaction to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

On Friday, the Italian government froze Kuwaiti assets held in Italy and suspended arms shipments to Iraq. The 12 EC nations on Saturday imposed an embargo on oil imports from Kuwait and Iraq.

Bush, Sheikh Jaber exchange messages

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush and the deposed emir of Kuwait have exchanged letters and a phone call, U.S. and Kuwaiti officials said Saturday, but they would not reveal their contents.

"I can't characterize the contents," said a State Department official who asked not to be identified.

The Kuwaiti emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, fled to Saudi Arabia just ahead of the pre-dawn invasion Thursday by Iraqi troops and tanks. Baghdad installed a new government in Kuwait Saturday and repeated a pledge to pull its troops out beginning Sunday.

Bush's letter was handed to "the legal government" on Saturday, the State Department official said.

Assistant Secretary of State

John Kelly met with Kuwaiti Ambassador Sand Nasir Al Sabah to discuss the Gulf crisis, she said, and "Kelly gave the ambassador a letter to the Kuwaiti emir from President Bush."

Sabah later told reporters the emir had responded to Bush's letter and added that the two had then also spoken by telephone.

"The president reaffirmed and confirmed (U.S. support for Kuwait) vis-a-vis this tragic situation of my country," Al Sabah said of the communications but he declined to offer additional details.

Similarly, the White House would not say whether Bush's communications with the emir were intended simply as a show of U.S. support or communicated other information about the Gulf crisis.

'U.S. sends hostage rescue force to Middle East'

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has sent special operations forces and hostage rescue troops to the Middle East in case they are needed because of conflict there, the Washington Post said Sunday.

The group included elements of the elite Delta Force, the country's top commando unit.

The Post, citing unnamed military officials, also said the United States was working on contingency plans if Iraq attacked Saudi Arabia that would include deployment to the Middle East of F-117 Stealth fighters and B-52 bombers.

The aircraft could be used to damage Iraqi military and industrial centres and ultimately its oil installations, the newspaper said.

The newspaper did not say how many special operations forces had been sent to the Middle East

or where they were going. It said about 3,000 Americans were in Kuwait and 500 in Iraq.

A State Department official said early Sunday he had no information about the special operations and hostage rescue forces and said that no Americans are known to be missing since Iraq's take-over of Kuwait Thursday.

Iraq's ambassador to Washington said late Saturday that 11 of 14 Americans reported missing in Kuwait since the invasion have been released in Baghdad. The State Department official said the early estimate of 14 Americans missing may have been wrong.

"To the best of our knowledge right now, the 11 were it and they're in Baghdad," the State Department official said. The 11 oilfield workers in Kuwait were seized by Iraqi forces.

Gorbachev, Mitterrand: Kuwait situation serious

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and French President Francois Mitterrand have discussed the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait, declaring the situation was serious, TASS news agency said Sunday.

The two men, talking by telephone Saturday, agreed to keep in touch with each other.

Gorbachev is on holiday in the Crimea while Mitterrand cut short his vacation in southwest France after last Thursday's take-over.

"The president of the Soviet Union and the president of France stressed the importance of the fact that the international community, including Arab governments, had reacted sharply to that action (the invasion)," TASS said.

"They considered the situation

serious and agreed to continue their contacts." It gave no further details.

The Soviet Union, for years a close ally of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, has joined the United States in denouncing the take-over and stopped arms sales to Baghdad.

The Foreign Ministry Saturday gave a highly guarded welcome to Iraq's announcement that it would begin withdrawing its troops, making clear it wanted to see actions not words.

In a reflection of the hardening of Moscow's view of the Iraqi government, Soviet newspaper commentators have begun attacking its human rights record.

The Communist Party daily Pravda on Sunday said there were several hundred Soviet diplo-



Mikhail Gorbachev



Francois Mitterrand

ats, specialists and their families in Kuwait. It quoted the Soviet embassy as saying that as of Saturday none had been hurt.

Izvestia, the government daily, said Thursday's tank attack on the emir of Kuwait's palace had broken some windows in the nearby Soviet embassy and caused some insignificant damage inside but no casualties.

The newspaper's correspon-

dent, reporting from Kuwait on Saturday, said the capital was quiet, with only occasional gunshots heard during Friday night.

Iraqi troops were in full control with tanks and armoured personnel carriers every 30 to 40 metres along the main seafront street. Iraqi patrols allowed traffic to circulate in the suburbs but the centre of the city was shut off, he said.

Iraq to form 11 new army divisions

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday ordered the formation of 11 new army divisions, Baghdad Radio reported.

The radio, monitored in Cyprus, said Hussein ordered the Defence Ministry to set a timetable for formation of one armoured division, one presidential guards division, and nine other divisions of infantry and mechanised forces.

"The timetable should conform with the political and military developments," the radio quoted an armed forces communique as saying.

Iraq said earlier Sunday it had started to withdraw troops from Kuwait, but a Western witness said he had seen tanks heading south, towards the area of the Kuwait's richest oil fields, near the border with Saudi Arabia.

The communique quoted a Koranic verse calling on Muslims to prepare themselves militarily to

confront "the enemies of God." Last Thursday, when it took over Kuwait, Iraq ordered the immediate formation of three new divisions, one of them armoured. An Iraqi division normally has about 10,000 men.

It also ordered the reformation of 15 infantry divisions and one armoured division disbanded after the August 1988 ceasefire in the Gulf war with Iran.

It was not clear whether Sunday's order for 11 divisions was an addition to Thursday's instruction. Iraq has a population of 17.8 million.

According to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, Iraq already has one million men in its armed forces, 955,000 of them in the army.

It was 5,500 main battle tanks, more than 3,000 artillery pieces, hundreds of missiles and 510 combat aircraft.

Saudi press ends silence

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabian editorial writers on Sunday ended a four-day silence on the Kuwait crisis.

Commentators, who usually reflect government policy, said dialogue and not force should be used to settle differences between brothers... the only option to keep the Arab Nation safe from

international alliances that have caused it suffering in the past," said Okaz newspaper.

Without mentioning Iraq by name, the Saudi press said: "The Arab and Muslim nations are united as never before... in rejecting aggression and invasion." The papers, like other Saudi media, restricted their news

Iran in no rush to restore ties with U.K.

NICOSIA (R) — A senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official said Sunday Tehran would not rush to restore relations with Britain, severed over the controversy surrounding "The Satanic Verses."

The Supreme National Security Council, chaired by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, urged the Foreign Ministry on Saturday to reestablish links with London.

It said recent remarks by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd about Salman Rushdie's novel satisfied Tehran.

Rushdie has been in hiding since February 1989 when Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered Muslims to kill him for alleged blasphemy. A month later Tehran broke ties with London over its failure to denounce the book.

"God willing, we will work towards restoring relations. But we will not make any hasty moves. It will take time as we have to go through various stages," the Foreign Ministry official, who declined to be named, told Reuters by telephone.

Hurd, in a letter to a fellow British parliamentarian, made public Wednesday, said there was no question of the British government or people wishing to insult Islam.

Pragmatic leaders including

Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati have been trying to mend fences with Britain by seeking to separate Khomeini's religious edict from diplomatic issues.

Their attempts have been fiercely resisted by a hardline faction within Iran's clerical leadership opposed to any rapprochement with the West.

Iranian political analysts said Tehran was now keener than ever on better relations with the West, especially since Iraq stormed into Kuwait.

Hussein Mussavian, Foreign Ministry director general for Western Europe, said Saturday there was no longer any legal obstacle to full diplomatic relations with Britain.

Iranian officials said Hurd's remarks amounted to a condemnation of Rushdie and an expression of respect for Muslims. The decision to restore ties would have no effect on Khomeini's edict.

The British Foreign Office said it had noted the report with interest. "Nevertheless obstacles to better relations remain. We are looking for a substantive gesture of goodwill from the Iranian authorities," a spokesman said.

Government sources said this was a reference to the detention of British businessman Roger Cooper and the fate of British hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Pragmatic leaders including

Iraqi export routes highly vulnerable

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq exports much of its oil through pipelines across Saudi Arabia and Turkey, with the rest shipped via the Gulf. All three routes are highly vulnerable.

The \$2.7-billion twin pipeline through Saudi Arabia, which ends at the Red Sea oil terminal at Al Muhajir, has a capacity of 1.65 million barrels a day.

Building the 1,575-kilometre pipeline was a central element in Iraq's plan to seek alternative oil routes during the Gulf war, when Iranian raids on Gulf shipping almost shut down sea routes.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer in the past described the pipeline as a "symbol of the deep ties between the two countries."

Another pair of parallel pipelines with a capacity of 1.5 million barrels a day snakes through 980 kilometres of southeastern Turkey to the Mediterranean oil terminal at Ceyhan.

Oil shipped through the Gulf passes through Iraq's Mina Al Bakr terminal, rebuilt after the war, which has a capacity to load 1.6 million barrels a day into tankers.

But with the United States and the European Community

announcing embargoes on Iraqi oil, the question is whether Baghdad will be able to sell that oil.

In addition, the pipelines are highly vulnerable to military attack and their operation depends on the cooperation of Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

So far, those two countries have given no indication of any willingness to interfere with the oil flow, with Saudi Arabia reportedly fearful that any such action could provide Baghdad with a pretext to send its army into the kingdom.

But the possibility remains. As for the Gulf route, the Iran-Iraq war demonstrated vividly that it can be virtually shut down by military aircraft, missiles, gunboats and possibly a naval blockade.

At times during the eight-year Gulf war with Iran, Iraq's oil output fell below one million barrels a day but now it rakes again among the world's oil giants.

Iraq itself has increased its production capacity to 4.5 million barrels a day, although it has kept its output no higher than its Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota of 3.14

million barrels a day.

Kuwait's violation of its OPEC quota was one factor that pushed oil prices down, sparking Iraqi anger and costing Baghdad losses of \$14 billion, Iraq said.

Kuwait, taken over by Iraqi troops Thursday, has an OPEC quota of 1.5 million barrels of oil a day but had been producing up to 1.9 million barrels a day, and it has capacity to produce even more.

Iraq has more than 100 billion barrels of oil reserves, while Kuwait itself floats on a sea of 94 billion barrels of oil.

Both countries, however, still rely on foreign expertise both to extract the oil and to conduct exploration work. The Western sanctions will eliminate much of this assistance.

U.S. urges caution

The U.S. military has urged American oil tankers and vessels to stay at least 12 miles off the coast of Kuwait while travelling through the Gulf.

U.S. central command spokesman Lieutenant Colonel John Olsen said he knew of only one U.S.-flagged oil tanker currently

in the Gulf, which he said was in a Saudi Arabian port for maintenance and repairs.

"We're not restricting traffic," Olsen said. "We did give out a warning. We think all tankers ought to keep 12 miles away from Iraqi or Kuwaiti ports. But it's still up to them and their owners as to how they will proceed."

A formal shipping advisory was issued on Aug. 2 by the U.S. State Department for all U.S. commercial vessels, he said.

Any military response to escalating tension in the Gulf would probably be handled by central command, which was created in 1983 to coordinate U.S. army, marine, navy and air force units in the Gulf and on the Arabian Peninsula.

The unit also is in charge of providing military escorts to American vessels requesting assistance while travelling through the Gulf.

Olsen said he had no information about news reports quoting shipping sources saying that Iraq had seized a U.S. oil tanker in the Gulf.

The United States currently has seven warships in the Gulf.

China bans arms sales to Baghdad

BEIJING (Agencies) — China will not sell arms to Iraq, the official Xinhua news agency said Sunday, joining other nations cutting off trade with the Baghdad government after the invasion of Kuwait.

Xinhua quoted an unidentified Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that since China supported the U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Iraq's take-over of Kuwait it would "naturally" not sell arms to Iraq under such circumstances.

The brief report did not elaborate on the ministry official's comment, which it said was in response to a reporter's question on whether China would embargo arms sales to Iraq after Thursday's take-over.

In the past, China has officially denied selling arms to Iraq, but Western intelligence reports indicate Beijing has supplied billions of dollars worth of arms, including anti-ship Silkworm missiles, to Baghdad.

Sunday's announcement came after U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon flew to Beijing to discuss the take-over with Chinese officials.

The United States has circulated proposals for tough economic sanctions against Iraq among U.N. members. China, one of five permanent Security Council members with veto powers, will play a crucial role in deciding the U.N. response.

Asian diplomats said China was willing to criticise the Iraqi action and join calls for an immediate withdrawal but would be less happy to impose drastic sanctions.

Kuwait's charge d'affaires in Beijing, Shukri Naser Al Shraim, told Reuters Sunday he had no promises from the Chinese government that it would join the call for a full range of sanctions.

It also owns about 34 per cent of Sussan Securities, an Asian brokerage.

A Hong Kong government spokesman said it is the first time the colony had faced a decision on whether to freeze a government's assets.

Diplomats noted that China may not be too well disposed to a more extensive response to Iraq's actions as the West was still enforcing sanctions against Beijing in retaliation for its military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in June 1989.

Hong Kong is considering Britain's request to freeze Kuwaiti assets in the colony following the Iraqi take-over, a senior official said Sunday.

Joseph Yam, the British colony's deputy secretary for monetary affairs, said Hong Kong had been consulting with the British Foreign Office on an assets freeze since Friday.

"There's been lots of discussion but no decision," Yam said in an interview. "First of all, we've got to have legislation for a freeze, which we don't have."

He declined to say when a decision would be made.

Britain announced Thursday it would freeze Kuwaiti assets under British control so they would not fall into the hands of the administration set up in Kuwait after Iraq's take-over.

Kuwait has an estimated \$256.4 million in the Hong Kong stock market, less than one per cent of the market's total capitalisation.

In addition, the Kuwait Investment Office, Kuwait's main investment arm, owns about 33 per cent of Hong Kong-listed Dao Heng Holdings which is involved in commercial banking, stocks and metals trading, fund management and other financial investment services.

It also owns about 34 per cent of Sussan Securities, an Asian brokerage.

A Hong Kong government spokesman said it is the first time the colony had faced a decision on whether to freeze a government's assets.

Assad meets Velayati, receives U.S. message

DAMASCUS (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and President Hafez Assad met Sunday in the wake of the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait last week.

Velayati, who is heading a high-ranking delegation to Damascus, delivered a message from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani to Assad.

The contents of that message were not disclosed.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last Thursday is believed to dominate the talks.

Syria backed Iran in its eight-year war with Iraq.

Assad received a letter Saturday from U.S. President George Bush, referring to the Iraqi invasion and the current situation in the Gulf, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported.

SANA did not elaborate on the contents of the letter.

Ways of ending the fighting in Lebanon between the Iranian-backed fundamentalist Hizbollah and the more secular Amal militia, which is allied with Syria, will be another topic of discussion between Velayati and Syrian officials.

Twenty-two decomposed corpses pulled out by Red Cross rescuers from the battlefronts Saturday, raised the overall casualty toll in the latest round of fighting, which broke out Jan. 16, to 211. Since the fighting broke out, 570 people have been wounded.

Iran, Iraq's foremost regional foe, has been urging that the security of the Gulf could only be ensured by the countries of the region cooperating with Tehran.

A Tehran Radio commentary

Saturday, monitored in Nicosia, said "it is clear that the regional countries can look forward to preserving the security of the Persian Gulf only by cooperating with the Islamic Republic of Iran under the aegis of our country's plan."

Since the Gulf war ceasefire in August 1988, Iran has been urging Western countries and friendly Arab countries to pressure Iraq into withdrawing troops from Iranian territory they captured in the closing weeks of the war.

Peace talks with Iraq, begun five days after the ceasefire, have been stalled.

Iran hopes to garner international support for its own cause against Baghdad in the wake of the Iraqi invasion.

Turkish President Turgut Ozal telephoned President Assad Saturday.

SANA said Bush's message dealing with the "situation in the Gulf and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait" was received Saturday night.

Relations between Washington and Damascus have improved since Syrian efforts led to the release of two U.S. hostages held in Lebanon.

Officials said Velayati also held talks with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Sharrar on the latest developments in the region and bilateral relations.

An envoy of the ousted emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will arrive in the Syrian capital Sunday, the Kuwaiti News Agency said in Damascus.

It named the envoy as Sheikh Duaj Jaber Al Ali Al Sabah, an adviser to the emir.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News summary
15:55 Local programme
16:00 Programme review
16:05 News in Arabic
16:10 Arabic series
16:15 Programme review
16:20 Local programme
16:25 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

16:05 Documentary
16:10 News in French
16:15 Weekly Sport magazine
16:20 News in Hebrew
16:25 Varieties
16:30 Perfect Strangers
16:35 Murder She Wrote
16:40 News in English
16:45 The English Game

PRAYER TIMES

04:22 Fajr
05:49 Sunrise/Duha
12:41 Dhuhur
16:22 'Asr
19:34 Maghrib
21:01 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 622785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625433
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712361
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A slight drop in temperatures will occur and winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Nabil Al Muhaseb 828252
Dr. Hanna Mansour 748364
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637025
Najmeh pharmacy 623072
Al Sakam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeizani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Shara (-)
Al Shara's pharmacy 983236

ZARQA:
Dr. Jihad Mualsh 636381
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 877461
Complaints 877461
Amman Municipality 623101
Complaints 773111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Call 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 63

Damascus meeting to discuss Jordanian-Syrian cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran leaves Monday for Damascus at the head of an official Jordanian delegation. Badran will chair the Jordanian side at the meetings of the Higher Joint Jordanian-Syrian committee which starts in Damascus Monday.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fariz said the committee would discuss for two days scopes of cooperation in the various fields and review the reports of the joint sub-committees on industry, trade, irrigation, transport, communications, mineral resources, agriculture, tourism, public works and housing, free zones, and culture.

Fariz said that the committee would also discuss issues pertaining to increasing commercial exchange and the international electric grid linking Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Turkey.

The Jordanian delegation to the meetings includes Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi, Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Fariz, Tourism and Antiquities Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabriti, Water and Irrigation Minister Daoud Khalaf, Transport and Telecommunication Minister Nabil Abul Huda, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taber, Agriculture Minister Sulaiman Arabiyat, Central Bank Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi and other senior officials.



SOCIAL SERVICES REVIEWED — Indonesian Minister of State for Women's Affairs Soedjatmoko Sunday visited Nuzha Social Services Centre and Princess Basma Centre for Social Development and was briefed on the societies' objectives, achievements and the services they render to the local communities. The visiting minister presented the Indonesian Ministry's shield to Nuzha Social Services Centre in appreciation of its efforts to advance the status of women and to enable them to contribute to the development of the community through productive work. Murphestoma also donated JD 1,000 to the society. The Indonesian minister is currently on a visit to Jordan in response to an invitation extended to her by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the chairperson of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund's board of trustees.

Marka vocational centre starts courses for women

AMMAN (Petra) — A vocational training centre for girls in Marka — Amman has started training women for trades needed in Jordan and said that all courses were given free of charge.

The centre, which is run by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), offers training in maintenance of radio and television sets and office equipment and methods of marketing as well as dressmaking, typing, commercial business and secretarial courses.

According to the centre's director Kalthoum Fittan, courses range in duration from one to two years, but there are short crash courses for apprentices learning different trades.

The trainees are first trained at the centre then they go on the job training at workshops, companies and other businesses for nominal wages.

"Trades offered by the centre are in much demand on the local market and some of them are now taken over by non-Jordanian workers for lack of sufficient Jordanians for the jobs," Fittan added.

She said that the Marka centre last year graduated 100 trainees; this year a total of 105 women will graduate after completing their training courses.

Instructors at the centre, she added, continuously tour the market in order to orient themselves on the local needs and the types of jobs which the graduates can take after graduation.

According to Fittan, the Marka centre has a separate unit for training young men in almost the same trades and professions. The men are helped by the VTC and the Ministry of Labour to find employment after graduation.

Fittan said that the programme is in line with the Ministry of Labour's long-term objectives of finding employment for job seekers and reducing the volume of unemployment in the Kingdom.

Few Arabs shed tears for ousted Kuwaiti dynasty

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was too much for most Arab governments to stomach, but few ordinary Arabs are shedding tears for the ousted Kuwaiti ruling dynasty.

The family of Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and other leaders of the small states lining the Gulf have long been resented for their fabulous oil wealth and a perceived reluctance to share their privileges with poorer Arabs.

"Many Arabs view the Sabah family, like other Gulf rulers, as Western puppets who do not defend Arab interests as they should," Mustafa Hamarneh, a leftwing history professor at the University of Jordan, told Reuters.

Tens of thousands of Jordanians, Egyptians and Palestinians work in Kuwait and some feel aggrieved at a state which has relied on their skills to develop its economy but refused to extend citizenship even to residents of 20 years or more.

"Arabs who work in the Gulf are treated as second-class citizens and they resent the sense of superiority of the host countries, which have shown no gratitude," Hamarneh said.

Kuwait lost Iraq several billion dollars during the eight-year Gulf war and has paid out billions more over the years in financial aid to less well-off Arab countries.

Arab nationalists, however, criticise Kuwait and its Gulf neighbours for not spending enough on Arab economic development or the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

Mahdi Abdul Hadi, head of a Jerusalem-based think-tank named "The Palestinian Academic Society," said Palestinians seeking an independent state welcomed upsets to the existing order.

"They don't talk about Sabah, they are talking about the winds of change in the world," he said. "No matter what, the man in the street is for change. He is fed up with the status quo."

Popular Arab perceptions also focus on tales of the conspicuously sumptuous lifestyle of some Gulf rulers.

"People believe these emirs are stooges for the Americans. They feel they eat and dance and enjoy themselves while everyone else is suffering," one West Bank journalist said.

"The Arab people, through Iraq's action, are suggesting to these (Gulf) regimes the need to revise their irresponsible ways... and shoulder their national responsibilities," columnist Samir Habashneh wrote in Amman's Al Dustour daily on Sunday.

"Blunt attacks on Gulf governments have been daily fare in the normally cautious Jordanian press since the invasion. Jordan, a regular recipient of Kuwait aid, refused to join the 13 Arab League members which condemned Thursday's invasion, saying it wanted to leave an opening for mediation."

Many Jordanians see Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein as an Arab hero and King Hussein as a traitor.

House urges Arab solution to the Iraq-Kuwait dispute

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday called for intensive inter-Arab efforts to heal the rift between Iraq and Kuwait and to prevent and strongly counter any form of international intervention in this Arab affair.

In a communique issued Sunday, the House said: "We wish that differences among the Arab brethren did not reach this stage and we sincerely hope that the situation is dealt with away from any form of foreign intervention, particularly by the United States, which leads and plans for such intervention."

The communique went on saying: "Our Arab Nation knows better than any other nation how the United States denies the Arab citizens the human rights they are entitled to and remembers well its biased stand and support for the various forms of Zionist aggression, including the occupation of our land in Palestine, Golan and Lebanon and, not in the least, the barbaric practices and the human rights violations."

"We, the representatives of the Jordanian people, call on the Arab states to deal with this situation themselves, without any foreign intervention or any foreign assistance, and to stand firmly in the face of any forms of intervention, irrespective of any justification that might be given by the hostile media."

"We remind all the Arabs that the foreign forces of the evil seek to look our wealth and funds and do not sympathise with any people in the region except with the Zionist entity, which, we should remember at all times, is the first challenge facing us and the first beneficiary from any dispute that might arise among the Arab brothers."

138 boys and girls converge for Amman Arab children congress

AMMAN (J.T.) — The tenth Arab children's congress will start in Amman Tuesday with the participation of 138 Arab boys and girls from around the Arab World.

According to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), which organises the annual congress, children who took part in the past congresses would gather at this year's activities in a reunion under the slogan "a summit for the children." Activities are prepared and sponsored in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The NHF said that the children will watch a documentary film on preparations for the world summit for children which will take place at the United Nations headquarters in New York on September 29 and 30.

The week-long congress entails visits by Arab children to various places of interest, to industrial and agricultural projects and meetings with representatives of various national organisations and youth clubs.

A total of 524 children from 20 Arab countries took part in the previous nine Arab children congresses so far, and 138 have been chosen to take part in this comprehensive meeting.

The congresses were aimed at strengthening the bonds among Arab children, offering them a chance to see the various aspects of Jordanian life and the responsibilities the country shoulders in the process of development, according to NHF.

The Arab children's congress idea came from Her Majesty Queen Noor who initiated it in 1980. The participants normally meet with the Queen towards the end of their stay in the country.

Households, institutions owe 10 million dinars to WAJ

AMMAN (J.T.) — Individual households, public and private institutions and companies in Jordan are indebted by nearly JD 10 million to the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), but prompt measures will be taken to collect the dues according to Minister Al Bilbeisi, secretary-general of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

Bilbeisi said that government departments and ministries alone are indebted to WAJ by at least JD 3.5 million.

The Prime Minister Mudar Badran has issued an order to WAJ to collect the water costs from the subscribers so that WAJ could be in a position to carry out its water projects, replace old water networks and pay at least JD 10 million for electric power annually.

Addressing a press conference, Bilbeisi said that WAJ was in desperate need of money to finance its projects and therefore the authority would be forced to cut off water supplies to subscribers who had failed to pay for the water consumption.

They will nevertheless be given one month to settle their dues.

"One week will be given as a final warning after the elapse of one month before cutting off water services," Bilbeisi added.

He said that WAJ was willing to accept a timetable acceptable to the subscribers to pay by instalments.

The ministry has adopted a water distribution programme over the past few years in order to ration water consumption and the programme is being implemented in the western districts of the capital, according to Bilbeisi.

He said last month that Jordan was facing a shortage of at least 50 million cubic metres of water annually and nearly a 10 per cent increase in water consumption due to the growing population.

According to Bilbeisi, the Amman area alone is in need of 12,000 cubic metres of drinking water per hour in the summer and 9,000 cubic metres in winter, justifying the distribution programme.

He said that the JD 10 million due were bound to help WAJ improve its water resources.

Jordan, Libya sign health agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Libyan health committee will convene during the current month to start implementing an agreement initiated by health officials during a visit to Libya by Minister of Health Mohammad Addouh Al Zaben.

This was announced by the minister upon his return to Amman following an eight-day visit to Tripoli where he held talks with his Libyan counterpart Mustafa Al Za'idi and toured hospitals and health centres.

"The Libyans have expressed desire to employ Jordanian doctors and specialists in their health centres and hospitals," said Zaben in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Libya already employs 70 Jordanian doctors under the terms of a 1988 agreement, which also entailed cooperation in other health-related fields.

Zaben and his Libyan counterpart signed the minutes of their deliberations providing for exchange of expertise, medical periodicals, training programmes, visits by university professors and scientists to carry out work at hospitals or to teach at medical schools and to organise seminars and lectures on health education.

The minutes provide for Libyan patients to be treated at Jordanian hospitals and for the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to conduct maintenance work at medical and electro-mechanical equipment installed at the hospitals in Libya.

"An RSS delegation has already visited Libyan hospitals and inspected equipment requiring maintenance which will be carried out under a separate agreement with the Libyan health authorities," the minister pointed out.

Concerning pharmaceuticals, the minister said that Libya and Jordan would try to benefit from expertise available in either country and would cooperate in the pharmaceutical industry, and the registration and distribution of medicine.

The health minister was accompanied on the visit by a team of Health Ministry and RSS officials.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

- King congratulates UAE leader**
AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday kept a cable of good wishes to the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan on the anniversary of his assumption of power. The King wished the president health and happiness and the UAE people further progress and prosperity.
- King condole Abbadi family**
AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday delegated Amman governor to condole Al Abbadi family over the death of Haj Daoud Al Abbadi.
- House discusses trade law**
AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Financial Committee Sunday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Abdullah Al Nsour, discussing a draft law on import and export and making amendments to some of its articles. The House's legal committee will meet Monday to pursue discussion of the draft defence law for the year 1990.
- Housing Bank loans dinars to Kuwaitis**
AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Bank has decided to give Kuwaitis currently on a visit to Jordan or Jordanians working in Kuwait, but now on leave in Jordan loans in Jordanian dinars, provided that they deposit Kuwaiti dinars. Once the dealing in Kuwaiti dinars is resumed, depositors can withdraw all their deposits of Kuwaiti dinars, after refunding the loans they got in local currency.
- Fitness instructors graduate**
AMMAN (Petra) — The third batch of physical fitness instructors graduated Sunday from the Princess Basma Policewomen Training Centre. The director of the Public Security Department (PSD) training section Lieutenant-Colonel Aref Al Taroudi delivered a speech highlighting the role of policewomen in backing the PSD.
- Agriculture seminars held in Jerash**
JERASH (Petra) — A total of 11 agricultural seminar were held in the Jerash district in the first six months of 1990 benefiting farmers and stock and poultry breeders in the Jerash district, according to the Agricultural Department Director here Ibrahim Abu Aileh. He said that the district has 65 farms of different types and their contribution to the Kingdom's food production is substantial.
- Saturday declared holiday**
AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will be closed on Saturday Aug. 11 to mark the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne, according to an official communique issued Sunday by the prime minister's office. King Hussein succeeded his father, the late King Talal On Aug. 11, 1952.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

- EXHIBITIONS**
 - ★ Plastic art exhibition by Rodakan and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
 - ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zera displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
 - ★ Art exhibition by Ali Al Ghoni at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by 10 Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery.
- FILM**
 - ★ French film entitled "Monsieur Bebe" at the French Cultural Centre.

Grain purchase deadline extended

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee set up by the Ministry of Agriculture to purchase cereals from local farmers announced Sunday an extension of a deadline to purchase the grain. All amounts of wheat, lentils, chick peas and barley to be sold to the ministry's committees should be in by Thursday, said a statement. The locally produced cereals are bought at prices higher than the international rate in a bid by the ministry to encourage farmers to increase their production.

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69 Business Management with option in Typing	16 Motorcycle Repair
70 Business Management with option in Writing	17 Surveying & Mapping
71 Business Management with option in X-ray	18 Fitness & Nutrition
72 Business Management with option in Zoning	19 Wildlife Conservation
73 Business Management with option in Zoning	20 Veterinary Assistant
74 Business Management with option in Zoning	21 Digital Electronics Servicing
75 Business Management with option in Zoning	22 Building Trades
76 Business Management with option in Zoning	23 General Business
77 Business Management with option in Zoning	24 Practical English
78 Business Management with option in Zoning	25 Small Engine Repair
79 Business Management with option in Zoning	26 Small Engine Repair
80 Business Management with option in Zoning	27 Small Engine Repair
81 Business Management with option in Zoning	28 Small Engine Repair
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83 Business Management with option in Zoning	30 Small Engine Repair
84 Business Management with option in Zoning	31 Small Engine Repair
85 Business Management with option in Zoning	32 Small Engine Repair
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87 Business Management with option in Zoning	34 Small Engine Repair
88 Business Management with option in Zoning	35 Small Engine Repair
89 Business Management with option in Zoning	36 Small Engine Repair
90 Business Management with option in Zoning	37 Small Engine Repair
91 Business Management with option in Zoning	38 Small Engine Repair
92 Business Management with option in Zoning	39 Small Engine Repair
93 Business Management with option in Zoning	40 Small Engine Repair
94 Business Management with option in Zoning	41 Small Engine Repair
95 Business Management with option in Zoning	42 Small Engine Repair
96 Business Management with option in Zoning	43 Small Engine Repair
97 Business Management with option in Zoning	44 Small Engine Repair
98 Business Management with option in Zoning	45 Small Engine Repair
99 Business Management with option in Zoning	46 Small Engine Repair

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THE HOUSING BANK

Announcement to customers of Petra Bank (Under liquidation)

The Housing Bank announces that, with the full cooperation of the Central Bank of Jordan and Petra Bank (under liquidation), the process of transferring Petra Bank customers' accounts to the Housing Bank has been completed.

Therefore, the Housing Bank will start extending its services to Petra Bank customers according to the following schedule:

- 1- Holders of Jordan Dinar current, notice and savings accounts:- as of August 4/1990 .
- 2- Holders of foreign currency current, notice and savings accounts:- as of August 6/1990 .
- 3- Holders of Jordan Dinar and foreign-currency fixed deposit accounts:- as of August 12/1990

For more information regarding this matter, please call the Public Relations and Marketing Dept. at (689110)

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Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Interventionist policies would not work

REPEATED Jordanian calls against foreign intervention in the Middle East following the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait are not only aimed at finding solutions for Arab problems within an Arab context, which is the natural and logical way of tackling this or any other situation in the Arab region. They also aim at pre-empting a crisis, a conflagration, that could affect the whole world and engulf the region with incalculable risks and even terrible destruction.

If an Arab solution to the Iraq-Kuwait problem fails to materialise, interventionist policies by outside powers will not work either.

An economic boycott of Iraq and of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil would be an option, but a bad one. First it would take months to produce any effect, assuming that it could be organised and stuck to in the first place. Second, and as some experts are predicting already, the price of a barrel of oil would reach maybe even the \$50 mark if Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil were to disappear from the market overnight. Notwithstanding the effort, organisation, will and logistics needed for such a boycott to materialise and succeed, the intervening period will witness changes and upheavals that could be neither favourable nor easily containable for the world to accept. Such an option as boycotts and ostracisations, therefore, can still be viewed as a step that can be taken by the U.S.-led West, but it would not solve anybody's problem.

The other option that the would-be ostracisers think they have is the military option — meaning a U.S.-led military intervention in the Gulf. This too is a preposterous proposition that should not even be considered, let alone prepared for. Washington's and London's, or whoever, strategists fully well know that any foreign military operations against Iraq could easily reach the size of the Korean and Vietnam wars. They know that Iraq has the capability of disrupting Middle East oil production for decades to come and that this region would burn endlessly thereafter.

If the world is serious and sincere about peace and stability in its constituent part, in this region and elsewhere, it has to be realistic and objective. The only real option available to solve the crisis in the Gulf today is the Arab answer. Witness how U.S. President George Bush's request to the King that Iraq set a specific date to withdrawal from Kuwait paid off after His Majesty King Hussein's visit and talks with the Iraqi President on Friday.

Foreign meddling and pressures and shortsightedness by some Arab leaders have so far managed to torpedo efforts spearheaded by Jordan over the past week to bring an early end to the Gulf crisis. But, as His Majesty the King and Prime Minister Badran stated yesterday and repeatedly, the Kingdom's determination remains strong and fully committed to pursue those efforts as the only viable option open to solve the problem.

"Give us the chance to solve our own (Arab) problems," the King pleaded in two television interviews on Sunday and Saturday. His plea should be heeded.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Jordanian dailies on Sunday again dwelt on the situation in the Gulf and the on going efforts to end the crisis through Arab mediation.

Al Ra'i daily said now that the mini summit in Jeddah has been cancelled, the Arabs are in trouble in their efforts to bring the issue to an end under the Arab League umbrella and to foil any foreign power attempts from meddling in Arab affairs. Should foreign intervention take place, said the paper, there can be no doubt about a serious conflagration in the whole Gulf region, because the foreign powers are only concerned with their own interests and seek to impose hegemony on the Arabs and exploit their oil wealth. The Americans and their allies brag about their concern to ensure the flow of oil from the Gulf region, using this as a screen to conceal their own intentions and to achieve their evil ambitions, said the paper. The escalation of tension perpetuated by the United States and the feverish American preparations for aggression should bring all Arabs to their senses and should prepare for the coming challenge to save the Gulf and Arab interests from a real disaster, the paper urged. But at the same time, the paper said, that the foreign adventures are mistaken if they believe that they can achieve their goals. Those bragging about their concern about peace in the Gulf, the paper said, should have voiced their concern by allowing the U.N. Security Council implement its resolutions aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily discusses Iraq's announcement about pulling out its troops from Kuwait, and says that it is a response to a call by a U.N. Security Council issued on Thursday. Abdul Rahim Omar says that this speedy response should prompt the Soviet Union and other nations which backed the United States in its evil campaign against Iraq, to reconsider their position and to realise that the U.S.-Israeli campaign was actually directed against the Arab Nation to distort the Arab image and to find a pretext to impose colonial rule over the Arab countries. The writer notes that the United States and Israel have been striving to separate the oil wealth from the Arab Nation, regarding the oil as a mere commodity and their own property to be exploited by their own colonial companies and serving their own selfish interests. The past few days have shown the world the dimension of Western hatred towards the Arabs in general and those trying to free themselves from foreign control in particular, says the writer. Should foreign intervention come now, the writer notes, it can only complicate matters for the world community, because the Kuwaitis backed by the Arab Nation, can and will find a solution for their problem, the writer stresses. He calls on Arab leaders to thwart all attempts by the U.S.-Zionist alliance to impose its will on the Arab Nation.

How the Soviet-U.S. deal on Iraq was orchestrated

By John Pansfret
The Associated

MOSCOW — When Dennis Ross, a top state department policy maker, accepted an invitation to spend a few days at a Soviet Dacha discussing the future of the world, nobody paid much attention.

It was supposed to be a quiet time, a little vodka and a lot of talk. Then Iraq invaded Kuwait, and Ross and his Soviet counterparts helped make history.

On Friday, Secretary of State James A. Baker and Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze issued a joint statement, prepared by Ross and Soviet officials, condemning Iraq's invasion and calling for an international arms embargo on Baghdad.

For the first time since World War II, the superpowers acted as allies when confronted with a war. Moscow assented to Washington's request it cut weapons deliveries to Iraq.

For the Soviets, the decision to join the Americans was a difficult one because of decades of close ties with Iraq. Moscow has a treaty of friendship with Iraq and it is its biggest arms supplier.

But, as Shevardnadze said during a hastily called news conference with Baker at a military airbase outside Moscow on Friday, "this aggression is inconsistent with the principles of new political

thinking."

Perhaps more significantly, State Department officials said the Soviet Union put no restrictions on any U.S. response to the crisis.

The genesis of the statement reads like a case study of "new political thinking," Shevardnadze's buzzword for the changing relationship between Moscow and Washington.

U.S. officials who participated in the whirlwind talks, telephone calls and abruptly changed plans used words such as "extraordinary" and "milestone" to describe the negotiations with their longtime foes.

Here is a day-by-day account of those talks:

Wednesday — a half-moon glimmered overhead when Baker stepped off his air force plane in the Soviet city of Irkutsk at 2:30 a.m. for talks with Shevardnadze.

The talks in "the Paris of Siberia" were expected to focus on the 12-year-old civil war in Afghanistan and arms control. But in the first session Baker asked Shevardnadze to pressure Iraqi Leader Saddam Hussein to withdraw troops massed on Kuwait's borders.

Shevardnadze declined.

Later, the foreign minister, in a remarkable step, admitted the response had been wrong.

"I really did not think at that time that the Iraqis would so openly engage in aggression against such a defenseless country," Shevardnadze said.

Thursday morning — Lt. Gen. Howard Graves, an aide

accompanying Baker, tells the secretary that Iraq has invaded Kuwait.

Baker informs Shevardnadze and requests the Soviets to cease arms supplies to Iraq.

Thursday — at 1:30 p.m. Baker's jet touched down in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, making him the first top American official to visit this vast, landlocked nation in 46 years. But events in the Middle East overshadowed his trip.

In Moscow, the Soviet Union condemned the invasion and stopped arms deliveries to Iraq.

Enter Dennis Ross.

After the Irkutsk talks with Shevardnadze, Ross went to Moscow with Shevardnadze's men for what were originally planned as broad discussions on the next two years.

In a Dacha outside Moscow, the Americans raised the idea with Soviet officials of a joint statement.

"There was a fair amount of discussion about the consequences of allowing naked aggression to go unchallenged," said a senior state department official. "If you allow someone to engage in this kind of action and get away with it, you're going to invite more."

Back in Ulan Bator, Baker gamely watched Mongolian wrestling and archery competitions, as the crisis unfolded.

Lt. Gen. Graves kept him posted.

"We've got more phone lines out of Mongolia than the

Mongolians," Graves quipped as he scantly clad Mongolian wrestlers grappled with each other on a grassy plain outside Ulan Bator.

At 8 p.m., Baker received a call from President George Bush, who was interested in the joint statement.

At a banquet that night, Baker toasted Mongolia's moves towards democracy, then announced he cut short his trip.

"It is with a very heavy heart," he said. The Texan had planned a two-day hunting trip on the Gobi Desert.

In Moscow, Ross and his Soviet colleagues thrashed out details of the statement. An international arms embargo was agreed on. State Department officials declined to say whether there were any disagreements but they said the Soviets did not make Washington rule out any option against Iraq.

Friday, 1:45 a.m. — Bush, flying on air force one to Colorado, called Baker again and approved the statement.

"Wake up and get a pencil," State Department Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told one reporter at 3 a.m. "We're going back to Moscow."

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — at Moscow's Vukovo II military airport — "this has been a rather unusual meeting," Shevardnadze said of his just concluded talk with Baker.

Then the two men read the statement, each in his native tongue.

Military power in the balance

By David Tucker
Reuter

NICOSIA — Saudi Arabia, despite the quality of its weapons, is a military David compared with the Iraqi Goliath it helped tank-roll during Baghdad's 1980-88 war with Iran.

If the Saudis were to deploy all 550 of their main battle tanks along their desert border with Iraq they would be more than a kilometre apart.

If Iraq lined up its armoured divisions along the same front, only 150 metres would separate the tanks.

Iraq denies it has hostile intentions towards Saudi Arabia, following its "blitzkrieg" occupation of Kuwait.

Its ambassador to the United States, Mohamed Al Masbat, said on Saturday: "Iraq... emphatically and categorically denies reports suggesting that Iraq harbours designs against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

Iraq said on Sunday it had started to pull its forces out of Kuwait, which would greatly diminish the ground attack threat to Saudi Arabia. But it said a "popular army" was being mobil-

ised in Kuwait and that many Iraqi had volunteered to join it.

The Washington Ambassador of Kuwait's ousted government, Saud Nasir Al Sabah, asked how anyone could believe Baghdad's promises not to attack Saudi Arabia following similar assurances it gave in respect of Kuwait only a week ago.

The Americans appear to agree. President George Bush is said to be studying options for land, sea or air operations against Iraq in anticipation of a possible attack.

"The status quo (in Kuwait) is unacceptable," Bush said on Saturday, "and further expansion would be even more unacceptable."

The Saudis would definitely need U.S. help to stop an Iraqi incursion, military analysts say. The key question: could the Americans act quickly enough?

"There is a major (Saudi) oil pipeline 40 kilometres from the Iraqi border," said one Middle East-based analyst.

"If tanks crossed the border without opposition they could control that flow in an hour... You saw how quickly they mopped up Kuwait, why should Saudi Arabia be any different?"

Without heavy reinforcements from beyond its borders, Saudi Arabia would rapidly fall, the analyst said. Its defences were spread too thin and its aircraft, like its tanks, were heavily outnumbered.

Iraq has 5,500 main battle tanks, at least 3,000 heavy artillery pieces and more than 500 combat aircraft, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Saudi Arabia has 550 tanks, about 180 combat planes and virtually no heavy artillery.

"The problem for Iraq would not be the first assault," the analyst said. "The difficulty would be in sustaining operations."

The sort of open terrain the soft-skinned supply vehicles would have to cross would make them extremely vulnerable to air attack. So while they would enjoy early successes I am sure the Americans and possibly other Western nations would be able to destroy their supply lines relatively easily," he added.

During the Gulf war, Iraq relied heavily on rapid armoured thrusts with tanks often many kilometres ahead of supporting infantry and appears to have used

similar tactics in Kuwait.

"Their armour is both their strength and weakness... Their reliance upon it exposes them to counter-attack," the analyst said.

"Washington might not be able to fight the war on the ground because of the logistics but... it could use air power to great effect."

Given other Gulf Arab states' fear of Iraqi retaliation, however, it is unlikely that they would supply the United States with forward bases for its warplanes.

Kuwait's Washington ambassador, appealed to the ousted government's nominal allies to "rise up and assist us in our struggle."

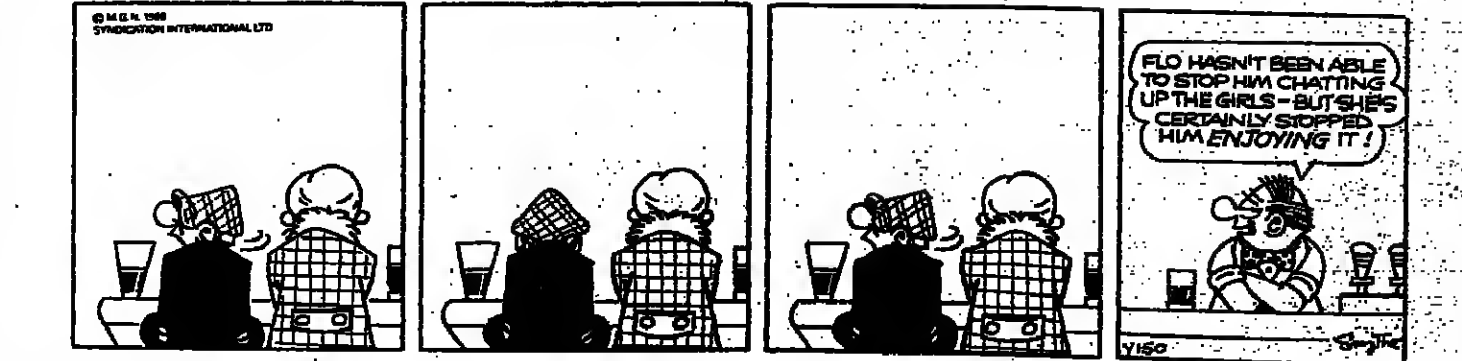
But while the Islamic Conference Organisation and the Arab League have both, with several abstentions, condemned the Iraqi take over there was no sign over the weekend that any Arab state — certainly none in the Gulf — would be prepared to assist directly.

The six Gulf states — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — are bound by a mutual defence pact and have a combined force called the Peninsula Shield.

Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Iraq will not invade S. Arabia

(Continued from page 1)

the danger is the whole area erupting if there is any action precipitous from outside.

Following are parts of the King's interview with NBC.

Q: Your Majesty, yesterday you met with President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad. Do you think that he has any plans to extend the conflict to move his forces into Saudi Arabia itself?

A: As a matter of fact he has committed himself to a withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and I believe withdrawal will begin tomorrow.

Q: You say you think the Iraqi withdrawal will begin tomorrow. Today we had news that a new government has been installed there we suppose that this new government will be headed by a gentleman who is a son-in-law of Saddam Hussein himself, does this give you confidence that the Iraqis are going to get out of Kuwait?

A: I have no news of who are the members of the new government as yet and I don't know whether your information is accurate but I know that if there is a commitment to withdrawal unless of course there is an external factor the withdrawal will take place beginning tomorrow.

Q: When you spoke with President Saddam what did you tell him and what did he tell you?

A: Well, I went there following a meeting with President Mubarak and on behalf of myself, President Mubarak and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to arrange for an early summit tomorrow in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, together with the Iraqi leadership to see how we could resolve the problem. Unfortunately it was fairly obvious that this would have taken place only if there was no Arab League resolution and I am under the impression that there wouldn't be until such a meeting was given a chance at the highest level to try to resolve the problem. Unfortunately the resolution was coming yesterday... has probably destroyed the chance of the summit or a mini summit but nonetheless we will continue to do our very best at the highest level to try to resolve this problem within the Arab context.

A: The Arab League, of course, has condemned the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Why did Jordan, why did you not support that condemnation of that action?

A: I did not because we are principally always against the acquisition of territory by force. This position time and again is well known.

However, we are playing a role trying to resolve the problem rather than complicate it and we can't play a role between two sides to a problem while having adopted a position ourselves, so that is why we did not adopt that resolution.

Q: Your Majesty, you say you are confident that the Iraqi forces will begin a withdrawal from Kuwait tomorrow and yet we hear reports from the ground that they are not. Is it true that a new army is going to be created and Baghdad's television says that (100,000) Iraqis have volunteered to join this new Kuwaiti army. Are you absolutely certain in your heart and mind that Saddam will pull out his troops out of Kuwait?

A: I am very confident that he will fire up to his word.

Q: You say that this is an Arab matter for a role to resolve. Obviously other nations that deeply concerned for reasons of oil and others such as stability in that part of the world. Is there a role for the United States in this dispute?

A: I certainly hope so that the United States will adopt an attitude that would have a calming effect and not be involved in this problem beyond what has happened so far.

'Jordanian homes open'

(Continued from page 1)

Another banner said: "We thank His Majesty King Hussein for his generous Arab stands as well as the stands of his wise government towards their brothers in Kuwait who are facing the invasion."

Abu Hamad, one of the demonstrators, expressed his thanks to King Hussein for supporting the Kuwaitis in Jordan, especially for arranging bank facilities for them to enable them to manage their financial situation.

Abu Hamad added that what the Kuwaitis want is an Arab intervention to solve the dispute. "We want to rule ourselves by ourselves. We reject the role of the weaker by the stronger. Our country has its own sovereignty and any dispute cannot be solved without negotiations," he said.

Hafsa Al-Hamad, a student in the University of Jordan and the wife of a Kuwaiti diplomat in the embassy in Amman, thanked King Hussein for not recognising what she described as "a fake provisional government." She also thanked President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

"We never imagined that Kuwait will be subject to an attack from a neighbouring and brotherly country like Iraq," she said.

Like many other demonstrators, Hamoud emphasised that the new government does not include any Kuwaiti national.

Hamad Shereef, one of the traditional opposition figures of the deposed Kuwaiti ruling family, vehemently denounced the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait and called on all Arab countries to step in and try to solve the problem within an Arab framework.

He criticised the Arab countries for not showing enough support of his country and said many Arab states stood watching the events without any attempt to mediate.

Shereef also said that none of the Iraqi appointed government was of Kuwaiti origin, stressing that "no Kuwaiti would recognise them or their families."

Pullout an achievement

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan will not be deterred by Israeli threats.

Badran was careful to clarify that Jordan's abstention from condemning Iraq at the Arab League Council did not reflect a Jordanian endorsement of the Iraqi military take-over of Kuwait.

He explained that a Jordanian condemnation of the Iraqi step would have torpedoed its role as a mediator but that his government would never support an Arab occupation of any other country.

"(We were concerned) that if such a condemnation was made it would scuttle efforts to convene a mini-Arab summit in Jeddah," he said. "But Jordan has always respected, respects and will always respect the Arab League Charter and does not permit the interference by one country in the affairs of another or the occupation by force," Badran stressed.

But, the prime minister argued Jordan had had to abstain, in order not to torpedo its mediation efforts. "Our abstention was temporary to allow the mediation efforts to succeed... after all we could not close the door to Iraq by our own hands if the aim was to maintain an open door with our Iraqi brothers to solve the crisis," Badran said.

Badran expressed the view that the mini Arab summit, which was due to be held on Sunday in Jeddah, could have produced a positive outcome.

He dismissed scepticism, particularly by the West, concerning Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait.

He revealed that Bush expressed such scepticism in a telephone call he made to King Hussein in Alexandria last Friday.

'Arab solidarity' remains the key to facing external threats — Badran

Following is the full text of the statement read by Prime Minister Matar Badran to the press on Sunday Aug. 5, 1990.

I would like to put the ladies and gentlemen of the press in the picture about Jordanian moves since the beginning of the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait, and until the present.

Jordan was surprised by the aggravation of the dispute two weeks ago. His Majesty King Hussein contacted his brothers in Baghdad and Kuwait and held intensive contacts with a number of other Arab leaders to contain the crisis and bring it to an end. His Majesty visited Alexandria on July 23, where he met his brother President Hosni Mubarak and reviewed all aspects of the crisis. President Mubarak then visited Baghdad, Kuwait, and Jeddah. We learned that the visit was successful and that it was agreed to hold a meeting in Jeddah on the July 31, between the vice president of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and the crown prince, prime minister of Kuwait.

On July 29, His Majesty visited Baghdad, then Kuwait on the following day, July 30. His Majesty conveyed to his brothers in Kuwait the extent to which Iraq was affected by the financial situation which resulted from the oil glut, and advised them of the importance of the success of the Jeddah meeting to avoid the deterioration of the problem and in order to sort out differences and prevent intervention by foreign and Israeli forces which are waiting to pounce on the Arab nations.

The following day, on July 31, while we were hoping that the Jeddah meeting would be a first step to solving all differences between the two brother countries, we were surprised by the quick collapse of talks. This led to the explosion which we had sought to avoid in view of its potentially dangerous consequences on the Arab nation.

At 5:45 on the morning of

Thursday August 2, His Majesty King Hussein received a telephone call from his brother the custodian of the two holy shrines informing him that Iraqi troops had entered Kuwait territory and expressing his hope that His Majesty would move quickly to deal the situation. His Majesty made the necessary contacts with President Saddam Hussein, Hosni Mubarak and Ali Abdallah Saleh, and on the same day he visited Alexandria and met President Hosni Mubarak. The two leaders agreed to hold a small summit in Jeddah to contain the crisis and bring it to an end, which would include preparing a timetable for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The two leaders considered that a resolution by the Arab League Council would handicap this work, complicate matters, and reduce chances of holding the mini summit which would lead the way to the internationalisation of the crisis and for the intervention of foreign forces and Israel which covet Arab land

and wealth. Therefore the two leaders gave instructions to their ministers of foreign affairs to stop the declaration in order to allow His Majesty time to mediate.

While His Majesty King Hussein was in Alexandria, he received a telephone call from President Bush, informing him that he considered the situation dangerous and stressing the importance of mediating with Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

On Friday, August 3, and under difficult circumstances, His Majesty visited Baghdad for consultations with his brother President Saddam Hussein. His Excellency the president agreed to attend the mini summit and informed His Majesty of the decision to withdraw from Kuwait before it had been announced. His Majesty announced the success of the visit upon his return to Amman airport.

While His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to contain the crisis were beginning to bear fruit, we were surprised by the

insistence that the Arab League Council issue a resolution condemning the entry of Iraqi troops into Kuwait, contrary to the agreement reached with His Excellency President Mubarak.

We asked our minister of foreign affairs, who attended the meeting of the Arab League Council in Cairo to explain our position and to explain the danger of obstructing the efforts of Arab leaders in the mini summit which had been agreed upon, and to warn against the repercussions which were anticipated by many parties that see in this an opportunity to create new facts or settle old scores, by internationalising the crisis rather than allow an Arab solution within the Arab fold.

The Government of Jordan, while it did everything possible to contain the crisis, and bring it to an end through the withdrawal of Iraqi troops and holding the mini summit, and through contacts and consultations at all levels could only express its reservations regard-

ing the resolution of the Arab League Council. This position stemmed from a national standpoint based on our deep awareness of the dangers inherent in internationalising the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis. We stress that it is the national duty of us all to contain the crisis within the Arab fold, to prevent anyone from turning it into several crises and to prevent any opportunity of foreign forces using it to gain inroads into thorny issues that would reflect negatively on the whole Arab nation.

The government of Jordan, in keeping with its national standpoint, believes that bilateral Arab contacts are the way to solve the crisis after the mini summit had been postponed. We stress the constants of Jordanian policy which is based on Arab solidarity, a united Arab stand against all enemies of our nation, and the importance of settling disputes within the framework of the Arab fold and in accordance with the charter of the Arab League.

Descendants of outcasts face modern-day discrimination

By Elaine Kurtenbach
The Associated Press

USHIKU, Japan — Well over 1 million Japanese, perhaps many more, live with a burden inherited from feudal times that affects their entire lives. They are called Burakumin.

To the outsider, Japan looks remarkably homogeneous. The Archipelago's 123 million people share language, physical appearance and customs. Legally, all are equal.

But for the Burakumin, the invisible minority, the homogeneity of this society is a tantalizing myth.

They are descended from people who were designated as hereditary outcasts in the 17th century and were officially liberated by the Meiji government in 1871, just eight years after Lincoln's emancipation proclamation freed the slaves in the United States.

More than a century later, most Burakumin still live in and take their name from the "buraku" hamlets or neighbourhoods where the outcasts were settled.

They still face discrimination in employment, marriage and virtually all aspects of their treatment by Japanese lucky enough to be born elsewhere, said Sue Sumii, 88, who has spent 70 years

fighting discrimination against the Burakumin.

A translation of "The River with No Bridge," the first novel in the author's six-volume series, was issued by Charles E. Tuttle Co. this spring in Japan, the United States, Britain and Australia. It was first published in Japanese 31 years ago.

The book opens in 1908, and Ms. Sumii says the sentiments revealed in it have hardly changed.

"There are about five families living in a Buraku at the edge of this town, and no one lets their kids go play there," she said in an interview.

"Those families weren't welcome in the neighbourhood association. People living in the Buraku were left out of the postwar land reform, so many are still tenant farmers. Things haven't changed much at all."

According to government statistics, 1.17 million Burakumin live in 4,603 Buraku areas. The Buraku Liberation League, the largest advocacy group, says there are about 3 million living in 6,000 Buraku neighbourhoods and many others try to hide their background.

Ms. Sumii grew up in Western Japan, where many Buraku live. She said she learned from childhood friends how it felt to live on

the wrong side of the "bridgeless" river dividing Burakumin from other Japanese.

Her story's hero is a bright 8-year-old named Koji who wonders why all the people in his village are called "eta," a now-taboo word that means "great filth."

Koji wonders why the people

"Koji wonders why the people are poor, although they work hard, and why other Japanese say they stink. 'How did we get to be 'eta'?' he asks. 'We aren't 'eta' because we want to be. We don't even know what it means.'"

are poor, although they work hard, and why other Japanese say they stink.

"How did we get to be 'eta'?" he asks. "We aren't 'eta' because we want to be. We don't even know what it means."

land, it went only to 'law-abiding citizens,'" she said. "Bad citizens" were people opposed to the emperor.

In the 17th century, the Tokugawa Shogunate divided society into four castes. At the top were the Samurai, or warriors, followed by farmers, artisans and merchants. Outside the caste sys-

tem were two groups: the Eta and the Hinin (non-burgers).

Birth as an "outcaste" was traditionally evoked little sympathy. Buddhists believed it was a sign of retribution for wrongs committed in a past life, Ms. Sumii said.

Because they were physically identical to other Japanese, in many places the Burakumin were forced to wear inferior clothes or shoes.

They were forced into communities on marginal land, where most modern Buraku still live. Buraku areas often were left

blank on old maps.

Burakumin were relegated to jobs linked with death, such as hutebering, leather tanning, shoemaking, gravedigging and cremation. Those activities were considered impure by Buddhism, which condemns the killing of any creature, and by Japan's indigenous Shinto religion, which shuns contact with the dead.

When the Meiji government "liberated" the Burakumin in 1871, it also began a system of family registers that include background and birthplaces.

Family registers can be used to identify people from the Buraku, and private companies have been found to use illegally published lists of Buraku communities to discriminate in hiring.

Families often hire detectives to investigate the family backgrounds of marriage prospects. Discovery that a person is from a Buraku can lead to a broken engagement or divorce.

"Even today, the situation has not basically changed," Etsuhiro Honbe, a Buraku resident, wrote in the Buraku Liberation News. "Although there are fewer cases of blatant discrimination, it has changed into something more cunning, spread like a trap ready to catch you."

In December, a court ordered the brother and sister-in-law of a

man married to a woman from a Buraku to pay the woman 7 million yen (about \$47,000) for "destroying" the marriage after they discovered the wife's background.

Taboos about Burakumin are so ingrained that the subject rarely enters polite conversation. Only in August 1989 did a television producer dare broadcast a programme on prejudice against them.

Many neighbourhoods try to avoid discrimination by not acknowledging their Buraku status, thus losing access to government funds set aside for community improvements.

In rundown Buraku neighbourhoods, health conditions are worse, educational levels are lower and unemployment is up to 10 times higher than for other Japanese.

Many Burakumin still work as itinerant labourers, in construction and in leather-tanning factories.

A request from the European Economic Community to lift Japan's tariffs on leather products was criticised on grounds the Burakumin's long-protected leather industry would be harmed. Similar U.S. demands in the mid-1980s were refused for the same reason.

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11-year-old Chinese wins gold medal at Goodwill Games

SEATTLE (AP) — Two U.S. boxers punched their way to gold medals Saturday just before the shooting started at the Goodwill Games, where an 11-year-old Chinese girl fired a shot heard 'round the swimming world.

In a rare international-style shootout, the U.S. hockey team won its way into a gold-medal game with a victory over previously undefeated Canada, 5-4.

Next, the U.S. women's basketball team beat Bulgaria 106-67 and also will play for the gold medal Monday.

Fu Mingxia, meanwhile, stunned her more-seasoned rivals by winning the women's 10-metre platform diving, beating a pair of Soviets and firmly establishing China as a power in the sport for now and the future. She was the youngest medal winner at the Goodwill Games.

Kristi Yamaguchi won the women's figure skating gold, beating world champion Jill Trenary, who looked ill-prepared for competition so early in the year, in the long program.

With only one day left in the games, Soviet Sports Minister Nikolai Rusk joined games founder Ted Turner in pronouncing the extravaganza a success, despite low television ratings that will cost Turner's TBS cable network as much as \$26 million.

"The first time the Goodwill Games were broadcast in 1986 from Moscow, the impression was that the Soviet Union was the enemy," said Rusk, head of the Soviet sports conglomerate Goskomspor. "Now the situation is greatly different. That image is almost entirely destroyed."

Figure skating

Trenary had a rugged night, missing several elements of her free skate and allowing Yamaguchi to slip past her.

"This early in the year, I'm happy with how I did," Trenary said.

Yamaguchi may have benefited from her decision to drop the pairs and concentrate on singles this year.

"This is my first competition without also skating in pairs," Yamaguchi said. "I had more time to rest and practice."

World champions Martina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko won the ice dance, with another Soviet pair, Maia Usova and Alexander Zhulin getting the silver. Two-time U.S. champions Susan Wynne and Joe Druar got the bronze, then announced they were turning professional.

Boxing

The United States had three boxers going for gold Saturday, and Sergio Reyes and Tim Austin came up winners. Teammate Raul Marquez lost a 4-1 decision to Francisco Vastag of Romania in the 147-pound (67-kilogramme) division.

"My plans didn't go as I expected, but I still thought I pulled out the decision," Marquez said.

Reyes, a marine lance corporal, beat Serafim Todorov of Bulgaria 3-2 at 119 pounds (54 kilogrammes), and Tim Austin had a 3-2 decision over Dzhambul Mutayev in the 112-pound (50-kilogramme) division.

Austin's bout could not have been closer. Two judges gave the fight to Austin by a point, two

others had the Soviet by a point, and the fifth had it even. Under international rules, however, the fifth judge was forced to pick a winner, and he picked Austin.

Ice hockey

Goaltender Guy Hebert stopped all four Canadian shots in the shootout as the teams took turns firing point-blank at the net. The shootout followed a 10-minute scoreless period. The score was 4-4 after regulation, and the U.S. team was awarded a fifth goal for winning the shootout.

"There is a lot of pressure in the shootout," Hebert said. "You can either be the hero or ... you take it more personally. No goalie should get beat out of shape at losing a shootout."

In the gold medal game, the U.S. will play the Soviets, to whom they lost 10-1 in the round-robin portion of the tournament. The Soviets beat Sweden 4-1 in the semifinals.

Basketball

Teresa Edwards led six Americans in double figures with 19 points, and the U.S. team outscored Bulgaria 15-6 to lead 81-60 with nine minutes left. The Bulgarians scored only seven points in the final nine minutes, and the U.S. team outscored Bulgaria 13-0 over the final 2:57.

Evilidia Slavicheva was high scorer for Bulgaria with 21 points. The U.S. team plays the Soviet Union, which beat Brazil 94-57. The Americans beat the Soviets in the preliminary round.

Edberg, Chang advance to Tennis final in L.A.

LOS ANGELES (R) — Top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden overcame a brief hot streak by third-seeded American Pete Sampras Saturday to reach the final of the \$250,000 Los Angeles ATP tennis tournament where he will take on fourth-seeded American Michael Chang.

Edberg, who dropped a set for the first time this week, recovered to win his first ever meeting with Sampras 6-2, 6-7, 6-1, while Chang eliminated hard-serving seventh seed Gary Muller of South Africa 7-6, 6-2.

The 11th-ranked Chang surrendered just seven points on his own serve in the first set and won the last four points of the tiebreak from 3-4 down with the help of two perfectly timed passing shots.

The speedy former French Open champion was never threatened in the second set by the 61st-ranked Muller, who appeared to have all the fight taken out of him after losing the tiebreak.

Chang said he hoped to do better in Monday's hardcourt final against Edberg than he did on Wimbledon grass last month.

"He blew me away at Wimbledon so hopefully another city, another surface, there is another

result," Chang said. Edberg, playing in his first tournament since winning his second Wimbledon singles title a month ago, looked on his way to another straight-set victory when he went up a break in the second set.

But the 15th-ranked Sampras caught fire briefly and began hitting his groundstrokes with more authority as he broke back in the eighth game and forced a tiebreak which he dominated 7-2 with his most aggressive play of the afternoon.

Edberg reasserted his control in the third set repeatedly sending volley winners deep into the corners as he broke the talented 18-year-old in the second and fourth games.

Edberg, who has lost in all three finals he has played here, said that he was satisfied with his play, despite allowing Sampras to force a third set.

"I started off playing well today, the best I'd played all week. I kept him out of the match, until I let him in with a bad service game. Then, he started going for his shots, so I had to settle down and control the points," Edberg said.

Jaite reaches finals of U.S. Pro Tennis

BROOKLINE, Massachusetts (AP) — Second-seeded Martin Jaite of Argentina routed Canadian Martin Wostenholme 6-2, 6-1 Saturday to reach the finals of the U.S. Pro Tennis championships.

Jaite, the only seed to get to the quarterfinals, will face Czechoslovakia's Libor Nemec in the finals. Nemec, who had to go through two rounds of qualifying to enter the tournament, defeated Darren Cahill of Australia 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 in the earlier semifinal.

Jaite won six straight games during one stretch, beginning in the fifth game of the opening set on two errors at the net by Wostenholme.

The 25-year-old Jaite allowed Wostenholme just three points in the final four games as he captured the opening set.

In the concluding set, Jaite had his opponent running from corner to corner to retrieve his baseline blasts and limited the 27-year-old Wostenholme to just five points in the final four games.

Jaite completed his route of the Canadian with a service ace and serve and volley winner to gain entry into the finals.

In the Saturday afternoon semifinals, Nemec trailed Cahill 5-1 in the first set, but came back to win 7-5, 4-6, 6-2.

The unseeded Nemec sur-

vived two qualifying rounds to reach the tournament and topped top-seed and defending champion Andre Gomez.

The Czechoslovakian is guaranteed at least \$25,000 in prize money, which he claims is "the most money I've ever won in a tournament."

Nemec said his highest paycheck since turning pro in 1987 was \$5,000, first-round money gained in Sydney last year.

The 21-year-old Nemec, who defeated West Germany in 1985, faced triple set point in seventh game of the opening set. He pounded ground strokes to the baseline and captured six successive points as the Australian netted three returns and hit long.

Nemec battled to 5-5 when Cahill fought off two break points. But 24-year-old Australian succumbed to a pair of Nemec's rocketing forehands to the corners.

In the second set, Cahill led 4-1, and after Nemec's counter attacked to 4-4, closed out the set by holding service and producing a final game break with a pair of winning baseline shots.

In the third set, Nemec doggedly retrieved and returned Cahill's deep ground strokes to take the first four games and played out the set and match.

Mucha leads Boston Five

DANVERS, Massachusetts (AP) — Barb Mucha, seeking her first LPGA victory, birdied the 485-yard, 18th hole with a two-foot putt Saturday to take a one stroke lead after three rounds of the LPGA Boston Five classic.

Her total of 8-under-par 208 led Laura Baugh by one stroke and first-round leader Ok-Hee Ku by two. Pat Bradley, the tour's leading career money winner, defending champion Amy Alcott and Nancy Brown were three strokes back at 211.

Mucha, whose best finish since she joined the tour in October 1986 was a fourth-place tie this year, shot 5-under 67 on a hot, sunny day at the 6,008-yard Tara Farm Golf Course.

She slipped in front of the fading Baugh at the 18th, a par 5 hole with a long pond leading to a raised green. She hit a four iron to within two feet of the hole and tapped the ball in.

Mucha is 37th on this year's earnings list with \$73,288 and can pick up another \$52,500 by winning the \$350,000 tournament.

Baugh, a non-winner in her 17 years on the tour, had jumped into a two-stroke lead over Mucha by making birdies at the 150-yard 12th hole and 465-yard 13th.

But she bogeyed the 355-yard 14th and 321-yard 17th, where she hit her first shot into the trees. She punched the ball out onto an unplayable lie, but she dropped it into a divot.

Frenchman takes world title in equestrian games

STOCKHOLM (R) — Frenchman Eric Navet won the world individual show jumping championship Sunday after collecting only 4.5 penalty points on Malcan Quito de Bausny and three other horses he had never ridden before.

Navet, 31, brought down one fence on his French-bred horse in the first round and then collected a time penalty on Briton John Whitaker's horse Milton.

But two clear rounds comfortably gave him gold ahead of Whitaker on 12, Hubert Bourdy of France with 20 and American Olympic silver medalist Greg Best (24).

Thursday, Navet had helped France to win the Nations Cup ahead of West Germany and Britain.

Sunday, the four men had to ride their own and each others' horses.

Whitaker, on his 36th birthday, started with a clear round on his handsome grey Milton, the most popular performer on display.

But he collected 12 faults riding the two French horses to slide out of the gold medal slot.

Harmonious captures Hambletonian

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Harmonious took the lead midway through the stretch and then held Embassy Lobell at bay Saturday to capture the \$1,346,000 Hambletonian at the Meadowlands in straight heats.

The Hambletonian victory was the third in four years for driver John Campbell and it also gave owner Frank Antonacci and his Lindy racing stable a record fourth Hambletonian.

More important for Antonacci, the win came against his archrival in the horse-owner ranks, Lou Guida, and came just a year after a fateful dead heat in the Hambletonian final with Park Avenue Joe an Probe.

Park Avenue Joe, owned by Guida, and Probe, owned by Antonacci, were eventually declared co-winners of the race, but only after Antonacci and company went to court to challenge a track ruling giving the Hambletonian solely to Park Avenue Joe based on better overall performance in the heats.

The winner's purses from last year's race are still being disputed in the New Jersey Appeals Court.

There will be no dispute this year. Harmonious and Embassy Lobell were both impressive in winning their divisions of the opening heat. Harmonious was by far the better horse in the second heat, trotting the mile 1:54 1-5, the third fastest heat in the 65-year history of the Hambletonian, the foremost trotting event.

Only Mack Lobell trotted faster, winning in 1:54 and 1:52 3-5 in 1987. Campbell also drove him and Armbror Goal to Hambletonian wins.

"I was very confident making the turn," Campbell said.

The 10-horse second heat was basically a four-horse race.

Royal Troubadour, the two-year-old trotter of the year and winner of the Yonkers Trot, took the lead and set the pace with King of the Sea, Embassy Lobell and Harmonious right on his heels.

Embassy Lobell paid \$2 and 60 cents and \$2 and 20 cents and earned \$336,500 for Guida and his LFG standardbred Assoc. Inc. Royal Troubadour was worth \$2 and 80 cents.

Harmonious paid \$4 and 40 cents, \$2 and 80 cents and \$2 and 40 cents in winning his fifth straight race and sixth in nine career starts. The Son of Crown Point earned \$673,000 in winning the richest ever Hambletonian.

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Argentine wins Austrian Open

KITZBUHEL, Austria (R) — Argentine outsider Horacio De La Pena overcame blistering hot weather and a lingering knee injury to win the Austrian Open tennis tournament Sunday by beating Czechoslovak Karel Novacek in the final.

In a game riddled with faults from both players, unseeded De La Pena beat seventh seed Novacek 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), 2-6, 6-2 in three hours and 11 minutes to win the \$350,000 Austrian Open.

"It was the biggest win of my career," said the 24-year-old De La Pena who is the son-in-law of two Wimbledon winners Roy Emerson.

"After having knee problems for so long I didn't expect to see a week like this," added the Argentine who knocked out third seed Emilio Sanchez of Spain in the semifinals.

Novacek displayed little of the bravado which saw him dispatch world number three Boris Becker, the top seed, in the quarterfinals.

The Czechoslovak was slow to react in temperatures reaching 30 degrees Centigrade (86 degrees Fahrenheit), hitting balls into the net and rallying to a short-lived recovery only once, in the fourth set.

A fine free kick from the World Cup midfielder allowed Cantona to net a header in the 12th minute. The pair struck again in the 79th minute before Caen salvaged some pride with a goal from Hippolyte Danghebo three minutes later.

Stojkovic, the new hero of Marseille fans, easily outshone fellow World Cup stars Carlos Moller of Brazil and Chris Waddle of England, playing in their first league match this season Saturday.

In front of 8,000 supporters, a large crowd by the standards of the principality, Monaco also discovered a new star, Portuguese Gil Rui Barros, hired from Juventus at the start of the season.

Rui Barros scored his first goal on French soil in the 19th minute and offered Monaco's second one to Argentine Ramon Diaz 19 minutes later.

The unexpected offensive display from Monaco, who used to rely on France's strongest defence, went on until the break, with French international defender Luc Sonor scoring in the 41st minute with a powerful shot from 30 metres.

Monaco relaxed in the second half and Daniel Xuereb scored Montpellier's lone goal four minutes before the end.

Paris St Germain crushed Toulon 4-0 move into third place with four points, level with Toulouse and Rennes.

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Marseille, Monaco show firm command

PARIS (R) — Marseille and Monaco, the top money spenders in French soccer, showed they made the right investments at the start of the season when they settled firmly in command of the league Saturday.

Champions Marseille, fielding an impressive line-up of French internationals and World Cup stars, dismissed Caen 2-1 while Monaco easily beat Montpellier 3-1.

After only three games the two teams from the Mediterranean coast are the only ones with a perfect record and their closest rival, third-placed Paris St Germain, are trailing them by two points.

Both can thank their new recruits for such a rapid success. Moody French international Eric Cantona, who returned to his home town this season after being sacked two years ago, scored Marseille's two goals against Caen after brilliant combinations with Yugoslavia's Dragan Stojkovic.

U.S. firms complain of crunch on credit

WASHINGTON (AP) — One out of every five U.S. businesses seeking credit in the last six months had trouble borrowing funds, according to a survey released by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"The credit crunch on business is more serious and more widespread than previously has been acknowledged," said chamber vice president Richard Rahn in releasing the poll of 8,190 responding businesses.

Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan noted July 12 that credit had become tight and said the central bank would lower short-term interest rates to ease the situation.

The Federal Funds rate, which is what banks charge each other for overnight loans, subsequently dropped from 8.25 per cent to eight per cent.

The Fed had kept the rate relatively high for more than a year in an attempt to slow the economy and thus lessen inflationary pressures. Rahn attributed the credit situation to the "economic slowdown, increased bank regulation and the effects of the thrift-industry bailout."

Small businesses especially are feeling the impact, he said. Of firms with sales of less than \$1 million, 27.4 per cent seeking credit reported trouble.

Only 19.2 per cent of firms with sales between \$1 million and \$9.9 million reported problems, while just 12.3 per cent of businesses with sales of more than \$10 million expressed complaints.

Hardest hit were real estate firms, with 33.3 per cent of those seeking credit having trouble obtaining it. But at least one in four construction, communications and transportation companies and small services-oriented businesses also reported trouble in the survey.

Least affected, the poll showed, were businesses in the finance or banking fields.

Polish unemployment tops 5%

WARSAW (R) — Unemployment in Poland topped five per cent in July with a rise of 131,000, the biggest monthly leap in seven months of economic austerity, the labour ministry has said.

There were 699,300 people or 5.2 per cent of the workforce registered as unemployed on July 31, a spokesman said.

Poland had 9,700 unemployed before austerity measures were introduced in January to fight inflation.

The monthly total was expected to rise sharply once again as more than 7,000 firms have announced imminent layoffs of up to 300,000 people.

The government says the total could reach 1.3 million by the end of the year.

Meanwhile a Polish finance ministry adviser has said that other foreign banks were poised to follow American Express Bank into the country.

American Express Bank said

Poland's cumbersome and anti-

quoted banking system has been repeatedly cited as an obstacle to major foreign investment.

Olex said the foreign banks in question were interested in opportunities in corporate, institutional, retail and investment banking.

He refused to name them but said they came from the United States and five European countries.

Three or four global investment banks were expected to open offices in Poland in connection with the country's plans to rapidly privatise the economy, he added.

The licence was only the second Poland has given to any foreign bank. The first was to the American Bank in Poland, an investment bank whose shareholders include Bankers Trust and Time Warner.

Finance ministry adviser Matthew Olex said he expected five foreign banks to open branches by the end of the year and a further seven or eight by the end of the first quarter of 1991.

"Poland now has a very attractive set of regulations for foreign financial institutions," said Olex, a British banker working as an adviser to Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz.

Poland's cumbersome and anti-

Israeli stocks fall by 7%

TEL AVIV (R) — Blue chip shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) fell sharply in early trading Sunday because of Iraq's take-over of Kuwait and traders said it could be headed for its biggest crash of the year. The two-sided index, the market's main barometer, dropped by 6.98 per cent in the morning session. The maximum fall permitted by the exchange in a morning period is seven per cent. The index stood at 241.55 at the end of the session after closing at 259.68 Thursday, the previous trading day. About half the blue chip stocks quoted "sell only" prices and trading ended the morning with an astounding selling surplus of nearly \$90 million. Buying orders totalled just \$49,000. Traders said prices on the TASE were likely to plunge further. They said the decline was caused by tension in the Gulf and drops on the New York and Tokyo exchanges after the invasion Thursday. TASE shares plunged 3.63 per cent Thursday. The last major drop on the exchange was March 21 when the index fell 7.16 points to 177.8 as trading resumed after a 15 days wage strike.

Shoppers waited hours in line to buy cart-loads of groceries, in anticipation of increasing food shortages and price hikes. Gasoline supplies dried up.

President Alberto Fujimori appealed to Peruvians to be "patient."

The administration inherited "a much more chaotic state than we would have thought possible," Economy and Prime Minister Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller said Friday night on national television.

Hurtado Miller said details of an economic adjustment programme which Fujimori had promised to unveil last week will not be announced until Wednesday.

The U.S. dollar's price jumped 33 per cent Friday in relation to Peru's loti.

"Unfortunately," the Lima daily El Comercio said in an editorial, Peru has suffered "a

week of suspense, when the condition of the country demands the fastest possible action."

Prices are surging so fast — 27.6 per cent last week alone, according to the economic studies firm Cuanto — that many merchants have closed shop rather than sell goods at a loss.

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The figures for the first six months confirm that the state budget can be balanced in line with the initial projections laid out in the 1990 finance bill," the statement added.

The budget forecast a net budget deficit of 387 million in dinars (\$439 million) against 388 million in 1989.

Peru's economic troubles worsen

LIMA (AP) — Paotic buying spread Sunday as Peru's new government postponed announcing details of an economic shock programme meant to alleviate the deteriorating economic situation.

Shoppers waited hours in line to buy cart-loads of groceries, in anticipation of increasing food shortages and price hikes. Gasoline supplies dried up.

President Alberto Fujimori appealed to Peruvians to be "patient."

The administration inherited "a much more chaotic state than we would have thought possible," Economy and Prime Minister Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller said Friday night on national television.

Hurtado Miller said details of an economic adjustment programme which Fujimori had promised to unveil last week will not be announced until Wednesday.

The U.S. dollar's price jumped 33 per cent Friday in relation to Peru's loti.

"Unfortunately," the Lima daily El Comercio said in an editorial, Peru has suffered "a

week of suspense, when the condition of the country demands the fastest possible action."

Prices are surging so fast — 27.6 per cent last week alone, according to the economic studies firm Cuanto — that many merchants have closed shop rather than sell goods at a loss.

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Gulf tension, embargoes threaten renewed whirl to international oil prices

LONDON (R) — Oil traders predict a new jump in prices Monday in response to unabated tension in the Gulf and a widening boycott of Iraqi petroleum exports.

The 12-nation European Community (EC) and Japan this weekend followed the United States in embargoing oil purchases from Iraq and Iraqi-held Kuwait to try to put Baghdad's debt-laden economy in a vice.

The United States apparently also wants Turkey and Saudi Arabia to be ready to shut pipelines across their territories, which carry most Iraqi oil.

Some oil executives think NATO member Turkey might overcome stated objections to that if mandatory United Nations sanctions are applied. The Saudis are saying nothing.

Barring a breakthrough in the crisis, traders thought that markets reopening Monday may continue a spiral that has already taken the oil price up by one-third.

North Sea Brent bleed, the world benchmark crude oil, reached \$24 per barrel last week before easing slightly. This was its highest since January 1986 when a glut overwhelmed the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Traders say a jittery market fears Iraq may yet swoop on the Saudi oil fields and thinks shortages likely if the West succeeds in throttling Iraqi and Kuwaiti supply.

Before the crisis, the two countries produced at least 4.6 million barrels per day (b/d) — 20 per cent of OPEC's total.

The United States, EC and Japan were together buying 1.7

million of Iraq's exports of about 2.7 million.

Geoff Pyne, an energy economist with finance house UBS-Phillips and Drew, said the latest embargoes will still let some Iraqi oil get to nations such as Brazil, India and South Africa and to Eastern Europe.

Middlemen may also make money moving Iraqi oil around the system, filling gaps as Western multinationals shop elsewhere.

But Iraq, relying on oil for 90 per cent of export earnings, would be pinched, if slowly, and may have to discount or barter.

Pyne said few of Kuwait's 1.5 million barrels may reach markets because the Iraqi-backed government's tide to it may be disputed by the allied emir.

"Shippers would risk costly lawsuits," he said.

The West meanwhile retains the option of an outright blockade that would either shut the pipelines or send tankers to stop tankers using the Mediterranean and Red Sea outlets.

Warships might also patrol the exit of the Gulf.

Raising speculation on such action, the White House said President George Bush spoke by telephone Saturday with Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Saudi King Fahd.

Analysts said a blockade halting all Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil would have to work fast or panic-buying might take prices to \$30 or more.

Steve Turner, who follows oil for London brokers Smith New Court, said: "Leaky boycotts might not be so effective as a blockade but the risk of damage to the world economy is less. You

may still have prices in the middle \$20 range."

But Western government and industry officials said supply problems ought not to arise in a brief crisis because the industrial nations hold total stocks enough for almost 100 days.

The U.S. government's strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) could alone replace all U.S. imports for 75 days, according to U.S. Senator Bill Bradley at the weekend. He asked President Bush to draw on the SPR quickly to dampen price speculation.

Surplus oil company stocks were accumulated in a recent bout of OPEC over supply. Drawing 1.5 million b/d from these for 90 days would only return them to year-ago levels.

"The catch is," Pyne said, "that nobody wants to draw on stocks if he is frightened about future supply."

Gabriele Cagliari of Italy's giant Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI) oil company said at the weekend he saw no problem at all if the crisis ended in two weeks.

Analysts calculate that about three million b/d extra could come from OPEC's Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Libya, Nigeria and Venezuela and o-o-o-OPEC Mexico and Egypt.

"But there still must be a question over whether the Saudis and the Emirates (with some two-thirds of the spare capacity) want to upset Iraq, even with American military guarantees," Turner said.

Nigeria said it would not raise output without a collective OPEC decision.

Tunisia meets targets for growth, investment

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia will more than meet its targets for economic growth and investment in 1990, a cabinet statement has said.

Planning Minister Mustapha Nablil told a cabinet meeting that based on the country's economic performance in the first six months, gross national product (GNP) growth would be 5.2 per cent, compared with a budgeted forecast of 5.1 per cent.

The total value of capital investment would be 2,500 million dinars (\$2,830 million), against an initial target of 2,400 million (\$2,720), he said.

"The figures for the first six months confirm that the state budget can be balanced in line with the initial projections laid out in the 1990 finance bill," the statement added.

The budget forecast a net budget deficit of 387 million in dinars (\$439 million) against 388 million in 1989.

U.S. Senate adopts military budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate approved a \$289 billion defence bill that cuts \$1 billion from President George Bush's request for the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

But the bill leaves intact his fiscal 1991 proposal for two B-2 bombers.

In a rush to finish before a summer recess, the Senate

adopted, 79-16, a military budget that slashes \$18 billion from Bush's request of \$307 billion.

"We have developed a manageable and prudent and responsible reduction in defence expenditures related to the threat," Senate armed services chairman Sam Nunn said shortly before the chamber approved one of the first military budgets in

the post-cold war era.

The Senate package, adopted despite the threat of a presidential veto, calls for a military personnel reduction of 100,000 and elimination of \$1.6 billion to procurement money for the MX Rail-Garrison missile programme.

The White House has said Defence Secretary Dick Cheney would recommend a presidential veto because of the SDI total and troop cuts. The objection comes even though the Senate bill is considered the high mark in Congress.

The House of Representatives, when it returns in September, will likely approve its committee's version of a \$283 billion defence bill.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, August 5, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	123.8	124.5
U.S. dollar	659.0	663.9	Japanese yen (for 100)	441.5	444.1
Pound Sterling	1225.4	1232.8	Dutch guilder	368.3	370.5
Deutsche mark	414.9	417.4	Swedish crown	113.0	113.7
Swiss franc	488.9	491.8	Italian lire (for 100)	26.7	27.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	202.1	203.3

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FRANTIC

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CONCORD

Dureid Lahham / Madeline Tabar
in
KAFROUN

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

THE SCORPIO

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Abdali — Jawharat Al Quds Building
Tel. 629784

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUR

Adel Imam, Yusara
in
The Devil's Island

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

Amr Dlab
in
AI Afarik (THE DEVILS)
(Arabic)

12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

U.S. marines enter Monrovia 'to evacuate Americans'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. marines landed in Liberia's war-torn capital of Monrovia early Sunday morning and began evacuating U.S. citizens. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Fitzwater said about 225 marines landed by helicopter. He said it did not mean the United States was about to intervene militarily in Liberia's civil war.

Four U.S. ships are standing offshore to help evacuate as many Americans as want to leave, Fitzwater said.

Conditions are rapidly deteriorating in Liberia, Fitzwater said. Food was growing short, there was no longer any water or telephone service and there was shooting near the U.S. embassy on Saturday, he said.

The decision to send Marines into Liberia was made by President George Bush on Saturday at the presidential retreat of Camp David, in Maryland, and allies were notified in advance, Fitzwater said.

An attempt also was made to inform President Samuel Doe about the U.S. marine landing as well as the two rebel leaders who are trying to overthrow him, Charles Taylor and Johnson, Fitzwater said.

A major factor in the decision to send in the marines was Johnson's announcement that he would start arresting foreigners, Fitzwater said.

"It was a very clear indication

of a threat against U.S. citizens as well as other foreign people in that country and that was a factor that caused us to move," he said.

The United States has offered in the past to help Doe, who is virtually besieged in a fortified mansion, to leave Liberia but Fitzwater said there was no indication he wanted to do so.

The marines encountered no fire upon landing in Monrovia, Fitzwater said, but he emphasised they were told before going ashore they were "in a battle situation" and were authorised to use whatever force was necessary to complete the evacuation.

Some Americans were evacuated by helicopter from the U.S. embassy compound in Monrovia as well as from two communications sites near the capital.

"The marines will remain in Liberia as long as necessary to ensure the safety of U.S. citizens in that country," Fitzwater told reporters summoned to the White House for an early-morning briefing.

He said the U.S. embassy in Liberia would continue to operate but with a reduced staff.

There are about 300 Americans in Liberia besides those in the embassy, Fitzwater said, adding the Bush administration has been urging them to leave for some time.

He said about 2,100 marines were aboard the four ships in international waters off Liberia.

"The marine presence does not

indicate or constitute any intention on the part of the U.S. government to intervene militarily in the Liberian conflict," Fitzwater said.

The operation began with the marines landing helicopters in the embassy compound.

They then dispersed, with some heading for the two transmitter sites one site is located 20 kilometres southeast of Monrovia and the other 20 kilometres northeast of the city, military sources said.

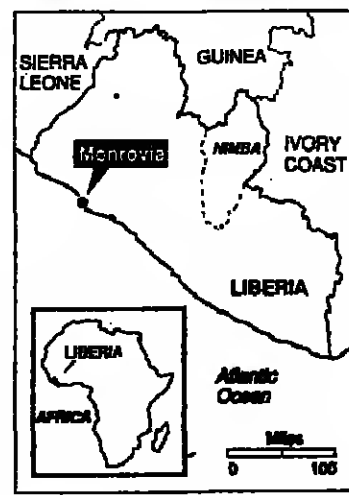
The areas are control by rebels who have threatened to kill invading foreign forces.

The marines were expected to gather the Americans inside the embassy compound, where they could be properly identified and processed for transport by helicopter to the ships waiting off shore, the sources said.

The Marine amphibious readiness unit on the Saipan had 12 CH-46 "Sea Knight" helicopters to transport the soldiers and the Americans, as well as several CH-53 "Sea Stallion" choppers to carry cargo, weapons and transport vehicles, if necessary.

Prince Johnson, whose rebel troops have occupied much of the city in their battle to oust Doe, told reporters Saturday his roundup of foreigners would begin Monday and single out Americans, British, Lebanese and Indian civilians at first.

The VOA transmitters were in territory held by Charles Taylor,



a rival rebel leader who has threatened repeatedly to attack any foreign troops.

The first word of a foreigner killed in the conflict had come Saturday with a report that Mohammad Farhat, a Lebanese native who had lived in the Liberian capital for more than 15 years, was shot to death in front of his wife and four children when he tried to stop Doe's troops from looting his furniture store.

Johnson himself shot and killed a Liberian wearing a Red Cross emblem Friday, claiming the man was selling rice that was supposed to be free, according to a Western journalist who saw the shooting.

The victim, whose name was not known, was arrested with Jacques Monthoury, a Frenchman working for the U.S. Catholic Relief Services. Monthoury was released after the U.S. embassy vouched for him.

The fighting in the civil war is

German opposition vows to block early elections

BONN, West Germany (AP) — The opposition Social Democrats and their East German counterparts pledged Saturday to block a plan to hold all-German elections seven weeks earlier than planned.

In East Germany, Social Democrats threatened to pull out of Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere's fragile coalition government over his proposal to hold elections for a single German parliament Oct. 14 rather than Dec. 2.

Peter Kaufhold, a leading member of the East German Social Democrats, said the party's parliamentary faction plans to discuss leaving the government Tuesday, West Berlin's Berliner Morgenpost newspaper reported.

Social Democrats in both Germanys charged that the call for earlier elections was an attempt to rig the outcome of the all-German vote in favour of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the leader of the Christian Democrat Party.

The Social Democrats claim Kohl and his East German ally de Maiziere are calling for October elections out of fear that voters will turn against them as East Germany's economy worsens.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, head of the West German Social Democrats, warned against any "election manipulation."

Anke Fuchs, a leading Social Democratic lawmaker in West Germany, vowed "all-German elections will not occur on Oct. 14."

However, the campaign manager for Kohl's likely challenger Social Democrat leader Oskar Lafontaine, indicated the party would consider the idea.

"We are ready to have a discussion," Reinhard Klimmt was quoted as saying in this week's edition of the West German magazine, Der Spiegel. The

magazine made Klimmt's comments available in advance of publication.

Friedrich Bohl, parliamentary business chief for the West German Christian Democrats, said the Social Democrats have to seriously ask themselves whether "they want to postpone unity and all-German elections... in this historical hour."

Karl-Heinz Hornhues, deputy leader of the West German Christian Democrats appealed to "the reasonable majority" of Social Democrats to support the push for the earlier election date.

Kohl maintains that holding the elections Oct. 14 corresponds to "the wishes of the people" in both Germanys. All political parties had earlier agreed to the Dec. 2 date.

The all-German vote would fuse the two countries under one government.

Honduras military ends strike against U.S. company

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Army troops moved in and ousted about 4,000 striking workers who had occupied the grounds of a U.S. banana company for 41 days.

At least two workers were wounded by gunfire and two others were beaten when the army Saturday occupied property of Chiquita Brand International, union spokesman Alejandro Maldonado said.

The government announced it would let the company hire new workers and resume production.

Workers had been occupying company buildings in La Lima, 300 kilometres north of Tegucigalpa, since they went on strike June 25. Earlier Saturday, the company rejected a proposed 30 per cent pay increase for the workers.

Military intelligence sources said at least 600 soldiers would remain in La Lima "to re-establish order and guarantee peace in Honduras."

Neither they nor the union leader provided details of the clash.

"La Lima has been occupied by the armed forces," one military source said. "The situation in La Lima is tense, but there has been no armed response from the workers."

He said troops had removed the strikers and remained in the main installations. On Sunday, he said, a military operation would begin "in all the banana camps to definitely reestablish order in that sector."

About 300 soldiers arrived in trucks and quickly occupied the installations. They were reinforced by 300 more soldiers and police, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Labour Minister Rodolfo Rosales Abella, speaking on national radio and television, said President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and his cabinet decided to end the strike.

Ridley repeats remarks

LONDON (AP) — Former cabinet minister Nicholas Ridley, who resigned after calling a joint European monetary policy a "German racket designed to take over the whole of Europe," has repeated his views and said he has received thousands of supportive letters.

"A very large number of people are fearful about where it's all leading," he said in an interview with the Sunday Express.

Ridley resigned as trade and industry secretary on July 14 after The Spectator, a conservative weekly, published his remarks about Germany. Ridley told the Sunday Express that if he had known he was going to be quoted verbatim, he would have used

more tactful language.

The newspaper reported Ridley's secretary saying the letters of support he received in the past three weeks ran into six figures.

"One has to listen to the people," Ridley said.

In a reference to widespread speculation that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher secretly shared Ridley's views, the Sunday Express said Ridley "undoubtedly remains a close ally and friend of Mrs. Thatcher."

meet those objectives of free trade and free and fair competition" which he favoured.

He said there was no economic benefit in "headlong rush towards economic and monetary union, let alone political union."

"The British people did not think they were joining a federal Europe, centrally run and centrally controlled. This is at the heart of the concern and the worry."

Ridley said he feared the powerful German currency would dominate the pound in a fixed system, possibly causing higher inflation and a 1930s-style recession. But he said that concern did not mean he hated the Germans.

'ANC close to ceasefire'

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The African National Congress is expected to announce Monday a cease-fire against the white-minority government after the two sides meet for talks, according to reports Sunday.

All leading newspapers carried reports from ANC and government sources that the two sides expect a breakthrough Monday at a meeting to try to clear the way for full-scale constitutional talks on ending white-minority rule.

The Sunday Star said the ANC may even announce the end of its 30-year armed struggle against

the government if all its demands are realised at the talks in Pretoria.

An agreement would clear the way for full talks, probably early next year, according to political sources.

President F.W. de Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela are to head the two five-man delegations during the one-day summit. The talks Monday will be the second formal round of talks, following an initial meeting in May.

Senior ANC official Alfred Nzo, who will take part in the talks, said the black opposition

group was optimistic about a cease-fire.

"I should foresee no difficulties, especially as I say, if the issue of the removal of obstacles has been finally arrived at and concluded," he said in a radio interview.

The news reports said the two sides expect to reach agreement on releasing political exiles to South Africa. The government is also expected to meet ANC demands for a review of security laws that have been used to suppress political activity.

Tamil Tigers assault besieged Jaffna Fort

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Tamil rebels launched a major assault Sunday on a fort held by the military, seeking to dislodge soldiers who have withstood a 55-day siege in rebel-controlled territory, the army said.

Meanwhile, news reports said at least 28 people injured in an attack on Muslim worshippers died in the hospital, raising the death toll in Friday's massacre to 140.

A rebel leader denied the army's accusation that his Tamil militia was responsible.

At least 300 rebels attacked the army-held, 18th-century fort in Jaffna city with mortars, rockets and machine-gun fire, said military officials speaking on condition of anonymity. The government responded with intensive air attacks on rebel positions and killed at least 50 guerrillas, they said.

The officials said they knew of no casualties among the defenders. There was no independent confirmation of the casualties and no word from the rebels.

It was the fiercest battle between the rebels and government forces since hostilities resumed between the two sides on June 11. More than 3,000 combatants and an unknown number of civilians

have been killed in the fighting. Jaffna fort, in the heart of rebel-held territory on the northern peninsula of Jaffna, has been under siege since the fighting began. At least 200 soldiers in the base have repelled repeated attacks by the rebels.

A rebel leader has denied that his group was involved in the attack on Muslim worshippers in two mosques Friday, the Colombo-based Sunday Times newspaper reported.

The newspaper said a leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the rebel militia, said in a telephone interview that the killing were carried out by a rival Tamil group to discredit the T.T.s.

The newspaper identified the leader as Karikalan, the political officer for the Tigers in the eastern district of Batticaloa. Most rebel leaders use only one name.

At least 112 of the victims were buried Saturday. So far, 28 of the 75 injured people died in the hospital, the Sunday Times said.

Muslims, who make up 7 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, claim neutrality in the war, but the rebels accuse them of siding with the government.

Quakes hit seabed off Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Three earthquakes struck the seabed off Japan's eastern shore Sunday, but no injuries or damage were reported on the main islands, officials said.

The central meteorological agency reported that there was no danger of tsunami, or tidal waves, following the quakes, which measured up to 6.6 on the Richter Scale.

Police in Tokyo and Ibaraki prefectures (states) said they had not received any immediate reports of damage or casualties.

The strongest of the three tremors struck beneath the ocean floor 336 kilometres off

Japan's Pacific coast at 10:36 a.m. (0136 GMT). It measured 6.6 on the Richter Scale at the epicenter.

It was followed by two aftershocks at 12:25 p.m. (0325 GMT) and 12:36 p.m. (0336 GMT), the second of which was estimated at 5.8 on the Richter Scale. There was no magnitude available for the first aftershock.

The Richter Scale measures the magnitude of a quake at its epicenter according to ground motion as recorded on seismographs. An earthquake of 6 on the Richter Scale is considered severe, capable of widespread damage near the epicentre.

Armenian parliament considers independence today

By Ann Innes
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Armenian parliament elected a pro-independence nationalist as the republic's president Saturday as it prepared to debate whether to begin breaking away from the Soviet Union.

The election came just days before a Kremlin deadline for about 40,000 members of pro-nationalist Armenian paramilitary units to turn in their weapons or face forcible confiscation by Soviet troops. The Armenian parliament has already refused to comply with the order.

The republic's parliament was scheduled to consider an independence resolution Monday, said legislator Raphael

Popoyan. If Armenia adopts the resolution, it would become the fifth of the 15 Soviet republics to move towards complete separation from the Soviet Union. Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Georgia have already taken such steps.

However, unlike the other independence-seeking republics, Armenia is locked in a deadly ethnic and territorial dispute with the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan. The conflict turned into civil war for several weeks in January before Soviet troops cracked down.

In the past, Armenia sought affiliation with Czarist Russia, a fellow Christian nation, as a means of defence against its

traditional enemies, the Muslim Azerbaijanis and Turks.

The new Armenian president elected Saturday is Levon Ter-Petrosyan, a leader of the Armenian national movement. Ter-Petrosyan spent six months in jail last year for helping organise mass demonstrations against Azerbaijan control of the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ter-Petrosyan defeated Armenian Communist party chief Vladimir Movsisyan by 140 votes to 76, Popoyan said.

On Monday, the Armenian parliament will also consider a "sovereignty" within the Soviet Union, Popoyan said.

Similar autonomy resolutions proclaiming a republic's right to overrule national laws

have already been approved by eight Soviet republics.

The independence proposal calls for specific steps towards achieving separation from the Soviet Union, Popoyan said. It does not follow the example of Lithuania, which declared immediate independence with the details to be worked out later.

Lithuania's defiance led to a 10-week oil and gas embargo by Kremlin. It ended a month ago, when the Lithuanians agreed to freeze the declaration for 100 days, starting from the date the Soviet Union began negotiations on independence. Lithuanian and Soviet officials have been meeting regularly to set up those talks.

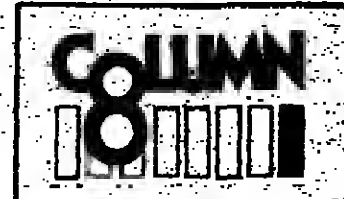
Popoyan said the victory of

Ter-Petrosyan, a supporter of the independence proposal, indicated the parliament probably will support complete separation from the Soviet Union.

The Armenian parliament has stated it will take responsibility for maintaining the peace and controlling weaponry on its own territory, Popoyan said.

The Baltic republics started their independence drives with sovereignty declarations two years ago. But sovereignty became a major issue when Russia, the largest of the 15 republics with half the country's population, also claimed the right to overrule the Kremlin.

The Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Byelorussia and Moldavia also have declared sovereignty.



Mad at Madonna

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Spanish news photographers lashed out at pop singer Madonna's bodyguards, calling them a "hybrid of rambo and Mafia hoodlums." The photographers unleashed their fury after a colleague was manhandled by a bodyguard as he tried to snap a shot of Madonna while she jogged down a central boulevard in this Mediterranean city. The photographer received treatment for bruises, but no arrests were made. The Catalan professional news photographers association issued a statement saying the bodyguards formed a "pseudo-police force that acts outside the law, harras news professionals and violates freedom of expression."

Don't shoot, it's only me

DENVER (AP) — Bob Hope says he wrote about his life to beat his kids to the job. "Look what happened to Bing Crosby, Bette Davis, Joan Crawford," he quipped at a bookstore here while signing copies of his autobiography, "Don't shoot, it's only me." Children of those performers wrote "unflattering" biographies of their famous parents. Hope, 87, wrote the book with Melville Shavelson, one of his comedy writers since 1938. The comedian says he does not worry about death. "I've died many times — in Philadelphia, Jersey City, you name it. I generally don't feel anything until noon, then it's time for my nap."

Can't afford it

BOSTON (AP) — Former comedian Dick Gregory has told a federal court he can't afford to repay an old friend \$105,000 because he has other debts totalling more than \$1 million. U.S. district judge Edward Harrington ordered Gregory to submit a financial affidavit. Gregory, 58, of Plymouth, borrowed \$40,000 in 1979 from Frank Nicholas II. Nicholas sued Gregory in 1987 to recover the loan plus interest, bringing the debt to \$105,000. Nicholas urged the court to find Gregory in contempt. However, Gregory said in court that he can't repay the debt because he also owes more than \$1.2 million to the Internal Revenue Service, American Express, banks and other creditors. Gregory is well known as a comedian, writer, social activist and weight-loss expert.

Columbus trek marked

HUELVA, Spain (R) — Replicas of the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria set sail on Friday to start celebrations marking the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' journey to find a westward route to China. The Spanish navy officers and volunteers crewing the replica caravels have an advantage — they know where they are going. Columbus never found China, but landed in the new world in October, 1492. The windless day posed no problem for the ships, as small auxiliary engines had been installed. The Nina unfurled a sail adorned with a large red cross as it was towed downstream from Huelva, close to the spot from which Columbus began his hazardous Atlantic crossing on August 3, 1492. It took 10 weeks for Columbus to reach the Caribbean but the replicas, carrying satellite navigation equipment, are taking a longer route. They will call at ports along Spain's coast until November, then visit nine European countries before sailing Columbus' route to America for 500th anniversary celebrations in 1992.

Leaning Pisa gets funds

ROME (R) — The Italian cabinet freed 100 billion lire (\$65 million) on Friday to stop the Leaning Tower of Pisa from falling over. The 800-year-old bell tower, which leans about five metres off the perpendicular, was closed to visitors in January because experts said it was dangerous and urgent work was needed to stop it tilting further. But no work was started because parliamentary bureaucracy delayed funding. A decree approved by the cabinet meant the funds were released immediately. "The committee of experts now finally have the money they need to be able to start work," Culture Minister Ferdinando Adornato said.